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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Frelinghuysen presented a petition of persons representing the financial, commercial, manufacturing and business interests of Newark, N. J., asking that in counting the electoral vote, all party considerations be laid aside, and that pure, unselfish patriotism may guide the action of Congress. The petition was read, and after a brief speech by Mr. Frelinhuysen, referred to the special committee of seven Senators appointed to consider the Presidential difficulties.

Mr. Gordon introduced a bill to create a sinking fund for the liquidation of Government bonds advanced to the Western Pacific Railroad Company and Central Pacific Railroad Company of California, and to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, under the act of July 1, 1862, and acts amendatory thereof for the settlement of claims of the Government in regard to said bonds. Referred.

Mr. Thurman submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Revision of the Laws to inquire into the propriety of providing for the publication of a new edition of the Revised Statutes as corrected, and to include the laws passed since 1873, also the articles of confederation and Constitution of the United States. Agreed to.

Mr. Paddock introduced a bill to authorize the removal of obstructions in the channel of the Missouri river, and to repair and protect levees at Omaha, Plattsmouth and Brownsville, Neb., and Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Ia. Referred. It authorizes the Secretary of War to expend $75,000 in removing sand bars and other obstructions in the channel of the Missouri river between Brownsville, Neb., and Sioux City, Iowa, and $50,000 to repair and protect the levees at Omaha, Plattsmouth and Brownsville, Neb., Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mr. Chaffee introduced a bill to abolish the use of stoves for heating passenger railroad cars. Referred.

Mr. Maxey submitted a joint resolution to amend the joint resolution of July 3, 1876, authorizing the Secretary of War to issue arms to certain States and Territories, so as to provide for the issue of fifty ball cartridges for each arm issued. Referred.

Mr. Booth called up the resolution submitted by him on Monday last, in regard to counting the electoral vote, and spoke at length in favor thereof.

Mr. Booth, in the course of his remarks, said: I have no words of condemnation strong enough for the man who, in this time of supreme difficulty, appeals to passion, ferment disorder and threaten violence. Every consideration of patriotism and wisdom requires calm deliberation and prudent forbearance. The responsibility of a solution is upon the American Congress. It is as morally certain now as it will be certain in fact on the 14th of February, that the two Houses of Congress will differ as to the legal result of that day's proceedings. With the certainty of this disagreement, the eyes of the people have instinctively turned to that august tribunal established to decide the highest questions of law which can arise in this Government. Through that tribunal I believe a settlement can be devised which will commend itself to the love of justice and propriety of all, and reconcile the losing party, whichever that may be. There are three lines in respect to the power and jurisdiction in this matter: First, that the President of the Senate has the absolute right conferred by the Constitution to declare and count the validity of the votes of each State; second, that the votes of no State can be counted without the consent of both Houses of Congress; third, that the votes of no State can be rejected without the affirmative action of both Houses. There is still another, that the House of Representatives has the sole power to determine the Presidential count, which would be a most original discovery if it were not the moit unique invention in American politics. The second and third theories would allow the two Houses to determined the votes of States which have sent double returns, and how many votes a State is entitled to that has sent ineligible electors. He did not agree to the proposition that the absolute power to reject or admit the vote of a State was vested in the President of the Senate. In his judgment this power was neither ministerial nor judicial, but political, and in the absence of express provision is vested in the Congress of the United States. He expressed the opinion that a certificate of returns, when regular upon its face, makes a *prima facie* case which it requires affirmative action of both Houses to overrule, and that when there are double returns the *prima facie* case is with that of the Government *de facto*.

At the conclusion of Mr. Booth's remarks, consideration was resumed of the bill to perfect the revision of the statutes of the United States.

Mr. Hamlin submitted an amendment setting forth in detail the fees to be allowed to weighers and gaugers, and explained that it was for the purpose of making the Revised Statutes agree with the law as originally passed. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill passed.

After an executive session, adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After the call of committees for reports of a private nature, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, in the chair, on the private calendar.

Mr. Knott, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, reported in the case of Barnes, the recalcitrant manager of the New Orleans Western Union Telegraph office, that the House has a right to compel the production of telegrams by officers of telegraph companies. Barnes was brought before the House, and declared that he is not now in charge of the New Orleans office, but that should he again be placed in charge of that office and should the telegrams demanded be there, he would willingly produce them.

The witness made further answer, declaring that he was entirely willing to produce the messages if he can do so.

Mr. Knott then offered a resolution declaring that the response of the witness was not sufficient, and recommending him to the custody of the Sergeant at-Arms until he shall have produced the telegrams or been discharged by order of the House. Adopted, yeas 131, nays 72.

Mr. Knott, from the committee to ascertain the privileges of the House in the counting of the electoral vote, made a report that the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, First, That the Constitution of the United States does not confer on the President of the Senate power to count and ascertain votes to be counted as electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

Second, That the only power which the Constitution confers on the President of the Senate in regard to electoral votes for President and Vice President is to receive the sealed lists transmitted to him by the several electoral clerks, to keep the same safe, and to open all certificates or those purporting to be such in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Third, That the Constitution does confer on the Senate and House of Representatives the power to examine and ascertain votes to be counted as electoral votes.

Fourth, That in the execution of that power in respect to the counting of the electoral votes, the House has at least equal power with the Senate.

Fifth, That in the counting of the electoral votes no vote can be counted against the judgment and determination of the House of Representatives.

Sixth, That the committee have leave to sit again, and report hereafter further matter for consideration of the House.

The report, together with the minority report submitted by Mr. Burchard, of Illinois, was ordered printed.

Mr. Knott gave notice that he would call up the resolutions for action on Wednesday next.

Mr. Knott also asked that two additional members be appointed on the committee to ascertain the rights and privileges of the House of Representatives in counting the electoral vote.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Field and Lawrence as such additional members.

The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President, stating how the money appropriated by the River and Harbor bill has been expended.

After a speech by Mr. Reagan, in which he severely criticized the action of the President in regard to that bill, the message was referred.

Consent was given to print the testimony taken by the committee on the election in South Carolina, and the House adjourned till Monday.

FIRE RECORD.

A fire on Thursday night on Water street, Omro, Wisconsin, destroyed seven buildings containing stocks of dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. Total loss $25,000; insurance $14,000.

The old Methodist church and a number of business houses in Rochester, New York, were burned yesterday. Loss estimated at $40,000. Caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp.

The fire which broke out in the Lykens Valley mines January 1st is gradually diminishing, and the steamer engines which were sent there from Harrisburg has been returned. It is now believed that the damage will not be as great as first feared.

A new saw and grist mill, belonging to James Bratton, and the Union church building, at Easton, Ohio, were totally destroyed by fire on Thursday night. Loss on mill, $10,000; on church, $1,000; no insurance. It is supposed to be the work of incendiary.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

Bills Introduced---Others Reported from Committees.

A Declaration on Presidential Question.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 12, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock, Speaker Newmyer in the chair. The following bills were reported favorably:

Supplement to the act relating to husband and wife, parents and children, providing support for the wife in case of desertion.

Act relating to the execution of trusts by corporations.

Seventh day Baptist bill.

Act relating to marriage licenses.

Act authorizing the appointment of women as prison inspectors.

Act relating to coronors and others holding inquests.

The mechanics' lien bill was reported negatively.

The following bills were read in place:

By Mr. Clarke, authorizing courts to decree private sales of real estate in certain cases.

By Mr. Stone, supplement to the act authorizing the appointment of court stenographers.

By Mr. Jones, to regulate and make uniform the reports of inspectors of penitentiaries and prisons.

By Mr. Lawrence, act to prevent the abuse of live stock while in transit.

Mr. Lawrence submitted a lengthy preamble and resolutions in reference to the national difficulty. The resolutions contain the marked declaration that neither branch of Congress possesses the power to throw out votes for President of the United States that had been legally certified and received by the President of the Senate. The resolutions were debated and finally passed by a strict party vote—yeas 28, nays 15.

Mr. Ermentrout submitted a lengthy preamble and resolutions from the Democratic standpoint. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Chas. H. Rush was confirmed as superintendent of that portion of the Cumberland road in Fayette and Somerset counties.

Adjourned till Monday evening.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock, and was opened with prayer by the Chaplain.

Mr. Hall, from the committee to revise the rules for the government of the House, submitted a report, which was read and laid over to be printed.

A number of petitions, remonstrances, etc., were presented and properly referred.

The following bills were read in place:

By Mr. Long, an act granting the consent of the State to the acquisition of lands by the United States to erect dams on the Ohio river; also, to empower the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce for the improvement of the Ohio river; also, an act relative to the division of and formation of new boroughs in the Commonwealth; also, an act to make legal and valid all bonds issued by cities other than those of the first and second class.

By Mr. Mitchell, an act to change the time of organizing school boards in cities of the second class.

By Mr. Edge, an act to make an appropriation to continue the State geological survey.

Also, an act to provide for the sale and distribution of the State geological survey.

By Mr. Ruhn, act to define the fees, charges and fees of port wardens and harbor masters in this Commonwealth.

By Mr. Hall, an act relieving telegraphic companies of the State from all liability in retaining telegraphic dispatches.

By Mr. Pallatt, an act for better defining the powers of commissioners of public highways in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sherwood, Democrat, submitted a preamble and resolution which, after reciting that the necessity created by the war for an increase in the number of civil offices no longer existed, instructed the committee to report a bill to reduce the number and salaries of officials in all departments of the government to the very lowest number sufficient to carry on the business of the government. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, by a vote of 119 yeas to 56 nays.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth was introduced, who presented a communication from the Governor, transmitting the annual report of the State Geological Commission.

On motion of Mr. Nisley, so much of the message of the Governor as relates to the fisheries in the Commonwealth was referred to a special committee of seven members.

Adjourned until Monday evening at 7½ o'clock.

The Democrats of the House held a caucus this afternoon, at which Mr. Zern presided. A resolution was unanimously adopted that no member offer any resolution in the House that would bring on political discussion without submitting the same beforehand to a general caucus. The action of the Republicans in the Senate this forenoon was severely criticised, and a committee of five members appointed to draw up a preamble and resolutions on the Presidential muddle and submit the same to the House on Monday night.

MOVING OF THE ICE.

The Steamboat Calumet Sunk at Cincinnati—Other Damage Done.

CINCINNATI, January 12.—The ice between the Newport and Covington suspension bridges moved about two hundred feet at nine o'clock A. M., sinking the steamer Calumet at the wharf, and carrying some empty Lysle barges with it. The gorge below at McCollum still holds firm. The gorges at Maysville and Ripley, above, broke at eight A. M.

9 A. M.—The ice gorge here has just broken; also, at Ripley.

9:30 A. M.—The gorge has just ceased moving. A lot of coal barges were carried down the Licking to its mouth. At Portsmouth, yesterday, running ice sunk five empty barges.

In the breaking of the ice gorge here this morning the new steamer Calumet, valued at $45,000, sunk, and will probably prove a total loss. She was insured for $17,000. She had a cargo for New Orleans of some three hundred tons, the greater part of which will be saved.

The ice is gorged again, but appearances are that it will move again soon.

ANOTHER MOVE AT MIDNIGHT—THE STEAMER ANDES SUNK—NO FURTHER MOVEMENT EXPECTED AT PRESENT.

CINCINNATI, January 13, 1:30 A. M.—The ice in the river started again at about midnight, but soon gorged again. The steamer Andes was sunk. No other boats were injured. The weather has turned colder, and if this continues, no further movement of the ice is expected. The Andes was valued at $24,000; no insurance.

A QUEER STORY.

Bennett and Miss May Said to Have Been Married and Sailed for Europe—Friends of the Duelists Leaving for Fear of Arrest.

NEW YORK, January 12.—A special from Philadelphia notes a rumor there yesterday that Mr. Bennett and Miss May had married and sailed from that city for Europe. A gentleman whose appearance was like that of Mr. Bennett, went hastily on board the steamer Illinois, just before its departure, with a lady closely veiled, and both went immediately to their state rooms, avoiding all observation. Mr. Bennett's name, however, did not appear on the passenger list. The Grand Jury have had Mr. Bennett's lawyer and Mr. Delrich before them but learned nothing. Several friends of the duelists have left the city for fear of arrest.

The *Graphic's* Philadelphia special says that the tall gentleman who left for Europe by the steamship Illinois, yesterday, was J. H. Cundell, a member of the British Centennial Commission, and not Mr. Bennett.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

But little was done in the Arkansas Legislature yesterday. In the Senate a resolution was passed in relation to the presence of troops at Hot Springs, and that efforts be made to withdraw them, as they are unnecessary.

At yesterday's meeting of the West Virginia Legislature Governor Jacob's message was read. After referring to Federal affairs and the late national election, the message is confined strictly to local and State matters. The Treasurer's report shows that the receipts from all sources, including balances on hand, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1876, were $898,454 15, as against $829,791 58 for the year ending September 30, 1875—an increase of $69,662 55. The disbursements for the former period were $682,891 48, as against $576,151 97 for the latter—an increase of $106,719 51. The balance on hand October 1st, 1874, was $282,365 12; same date 1875, $253,619 61; same date 1876, $207,562 65. The message is considered an able document, and contains some excellent suggestions for further economy in conducting the affairs of the State.

TEXAS PACIFIC.

Bill to be Introduced on Tuesday.

Outline of Its Main Provisions.

"The Best Guarded Bill Ever Laid Before Congress."

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1877.

The Texas Pacific Railroad bill will be reported to the House by the Chairman on Tuesday next. The only members of the committee who are expected actively to oppose it are Messrs. Blair and Kasson. There are some members of the committee who object to the bill in some of its minor features, but it is not suppose that they will endeavor to defeat it. It is believed that President Garrett, of the Baltimore and Ohio road, has organized an opposition in the House, but the numbers of this opposition are probably inconsiderable, and the measure will come up with a very fair prospect of being adopted. In its general features the bill is the same as the Atkins bill of last year, with the exception that the western portion of the road is to be built by the Southern Pacific of California, so far as that road is not already completed. The friends of the measure assert that it is the best guarded bill ever submitted to Congress. It gives absolute control to Congress to regulate fares and freights, so as to prevent injustice to the people or Government. The thirty-three million acres of land which were granted to the Atlantic and Pacific road in 1866-7, by this bill are remitted to the Government, and the Government is released from its obligation to extinguish any title in Indian Territory. The bill guarantees five per cent. interest on the company's bonds, which interest cannot exceed $1,750 per mile. For this guarantee interest the Government gets a first mortgage upon the entire road, with all its property, land and appurtenances, and in addition thereto becomes the mortgagee of the munificent donation of land granted by the State of Texas from Fort Worth to El Paso, estimated at some $50,000,000. It also authorizes the retention by the Government of the amounts due for army and postal transportation and telegraphic facilities. It also allows the Government to retain five thousand dollars per mile of the company's bonds, with the privilege of selling them and applying the proceeds to pay the seventeen hundred and fifty dollars per mile of guaranteed interest. It also gives the Government two trustees of the road until the interest is paid. The bill provides for an inspection of actual cost of the road, and the bonds referred to are not to be issued in excess of such cost.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern War Question.

EXPORT OF GRAIN AND CATTLE FROM TURKEY PROHIBITED.

LONDON, January 12.—The Foreign Office has received a dispatch from the British Ambassador at Constantinople, announcing that the export of grain and cattle has been prohibited from villages of the Danube, and the export of grain prohibited from the ports of Trebizond, Samsun and Kerasun.

BISMARCK WANTS RUSSIA TO GET HER DUES.

LONDON, January 12.—The London *Pall Mall Gazette*, in a leader on the conference, expresses the belief that Germany's action is the best indication of Bismarck's desire to see Russia at war, and the Russian Empire shaken or destroyed.

THE DEMAND FOR AN ANSWER FROM THE PORTE—HOSTILITIES AGAINST SERVIA TO BE RENEWED MARCH 1ST.

LONDON, January 12.—A dispatch from Constantinople states that the European plenipotentiaries, at a meeting held at the Russian Embassy to-day, decided to make a last communication to the Ottoman delegates, and to demand a categorical reply. The conference will meet again on Thursday to receive the reply. If the Turks persist in their refusal, all the members of the conference will quit Constantinople on Friday. It is said the Sultan has resolved that if no agreement is reached by February 28, to recommence hostilities against Servia on the 1st of March next. It is stated that the Porte, at last Thursday's sitting of the conference, adduced reasons for its rejection of the eight essential points of the European proposals, and absolutely refused to discuss the most important of the proposals, viz: the appointments of Governors of provinces subject to the approval of the Powers, and the creation of an international commission.

THE PORTE WILL MAKE NO FURTHER COUNTER PROPOSALS.

LONDON, January 12.—The *Daily News'* special from Constantinople says: In the event of a final refusal by the Porte, General Ignatieff will again propose that the British fleet come to the Bosphorus.

A Vienna dispatch asserts that the Porte has relinquished the idea of making further counter proposals, as he does not believe they will be accepted.

The *Standard's* Belgrade telegram announces the arrival of M. Murinovich from St. Petersburg.

The *Standard's* Berlin dispatch says it is reported that two divisions of the Russian army are approaching the Roumanian frontier.

A POSSIBLE CAUSE OF MISCHIEF.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says the quarrel between Turkey and Roumania may possibly cause mischief. Roumania requires a more solemn declaration that her status will not be affected by the Turkish Constitution than a simple communication to the Roumanian agent at Constantinople. Unfortunately, this difficulty has arisen just as the party who was opposed to a convention being made with Russia for facilitating the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania had, after a hard struggle, gained the upper hand. The present difficulty has in a great measure changed this. There are unmistakable symptoms of the pro-Russian party gaining the ascendency.

PROBABLE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE.

All the correspondents of the London papers consider the failure of the conference probable. The attitude of the Turks is unyielding.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Francis Buloz, founder of the Paris *Revue Des Deux Mondes*, is dead.

The steamship Russia, from New York, arrived at Queenstown yesterday.

The steamer State of Virginia, which sailed from Glasgow December 22 for New York, is reported off Crookhaven with her main shaft broken.

A Vienna dispatch to the London *Telegraph* reports that eight firms have failed in Warsaw, with total liabilities estimated at two million roubles.

The London *Post's* Berlin special says twenty Social Democrats have been elected to Parliament. They have shown great strength in all the large towns, even where defeated.

Letters from Saragossa report that several armed bands are committing depredations in Upper Arragon and Catalonia, and troops in considerable numbers have been sent against them.

A special from Berlin to the *Pall Mall Gazette* says Bismarck is confined to his room, and was unable to attend the Prussian Diet, which was opened by the Emperor in person yesterday.

The *North-German Gazette* states that the German corvette Vineta has been ordered by telegraph to leave Yokohama and take up her station at Manilla, for the protection of German commercial interests in the Phillippine and Sooloo waters.

The Berlin correspondent of the London *Times* comments on the extremely hostile language of the Russian official and other papers in regard to the proclamation of Queen Victoria as Empress of India. The *Vedemosti* asserts that the Amir of Afghanistan is arming against England.

RIOTOUS YOUNG ROWDIES.

Uprising of Boys at a Massachusetts Reform School—Desperate Fight—The Youngsters Subdued by the Free Use of Cold Water.

WORCESTER, MASS., January 12.—A serious riot took place at the Westboro State Reform School this morning. About one hundred boys were engaged in the uprising, and the signal was given by shutting off the gas in the school rooms. The fight was a desperate one for a few minutes, every article of furniture in two of the rooms being completely demolished. The officers succeeded in keeping the rioters in the rooms until help was summoned, and then subdued them by the free use of water from the hydrant. None of the officers or men were seriously hurt, and none of the boys escaped.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Condition of Appropriation Bills.

Little Progress Made in the Senate.

What May Happen if They Are Not Passed This Month.

General Grant on the Presidential Question.

Course to be Pursued in Case of an Interregnum.

The Position of the House Untenable.

Executive Authority to be Vested in the President of the Senate.

Another Schism in the Bourbon Camp.

Interview Between Thompson and Hewitt.

The Former Insists on a National Convention.

The Latter Says He Will Resign Rather Than Call One.

Tilden to be Called Upon to Settle the Question.

Joint Meeting of the Electoral Committees.

NO PROSPECT OF AN AGREEMENT.

The Feeling Among Party Leaders.

Probable Imprisonment of Mr. Orton.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1877.

Condition of the Appropriation Bills.

Senator Windom, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, said to-day that but little progress has been on the appropriation bills in the Senate, on account of not receiving them from the House; that he felt confident that they could be disposed of by the Senate before adjournment of the present Congress if there were no material modifications in the bills as passed last session. He said he does not see any probability of an appropriation this session for mail routes as contemplated by the report on that subject made several years ago. Mr. Holman, Chairman of the House committee, is still confident of his ability to effect the passage of these bills in the House within the present month. Some apprehension is now felt on this subject, for it is admitted that if not passed before the act to regulate the counting the electoral vote, they will stand but a poor chance before the expiration of the session, should there be no choice of a President, or were the assumption of some members of the House to take effect, that the Speaker would be acting President, it would be impracticable to obtain an executive session of Congress, for the reason that the Senate would not concur in a proposition for an extra session for such an object in view. In this event, at the expiration of the present fiscal year, the Government would be entirely without any of the means of carrying on operations until Congress would convene in December next.

The Course to be Pursued in Case of an Interregnum.

In the event of an interregnum in the Presidential office, owing to an inability on the part of the two Houses to come to an agreement on the question of the Presidency prior to the day which terminates the present Administration, the President is of opinion that the Cabinet officers in accordance with the provisions of the act of 1792, and will recognize the presiding officer of the Senate, who by considers *exoofficio* acting Vice President of the United States, and to him will be transmitted the important trust which he himself has so long exercised. In regard to this subject, the President states that to his mind the question as to their duty under such a contingency is quite clear, and that the partisan view taken by a portion of those who have the matter to deal with directly, is untenable and unsustained by any statutory provision. He says if the position assumed by some, that there is no President of the Senate, under therefore, in the event of no choice, that the Speaker of the House should succeed on the fourth of March, were the correct one, this would find the Government absolutely without an Executive; that he has no power to call an extra session of the Forty-fifth Congress, as that, under present circumstances, alone rests with Congress, and can only be done upon their concurrent action. It is not probable that the Senate would agree to an extra session for any such purpose; so that, admitting this view, there could be no President until Congress shall have again assembled in due course of law. Meantime the Cabinet would have to act except in case of the Postmaster General, whose term would expire in thirty days after March 4th, thus leaving that department entirely without a head, and, therefore, unprovided with the requisite officers

The Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1877.

LOUISIANA is enjoying a NICHOLLS' worth of chaos.

CONGRESSMAN WATTERSON, of Kentucky, is the tomtit of national politics.

UNDER the provisions of the new Texas Pacific Railroad bill, all branch roads are cut off, leaving only the trunk line upon which the Government guarantees interest on bonds.

NICARAGUA papers intimate that General GRANT will be chosen President of the International Canal Company as soon as it is organized. The allotted term of life, however, is only three score years and ten.

COLORADO will presently vote on the question of admitting women to the right of suffrage. It is to be hoped the Centennial State may have the wisdom and courage to interpret aright the lesson of our hundred years.

THE annual meeting of the National Association of Stove Manufacturers will be held at Troy, New York, next Wednesday. From small and doubtful beginnings this association has grown powerful alike in numbers and influence.

PROFESSOR FAWCETT, a leading member of the English Parliament, is said to be writing a book on protection and free trade, "with special answer to the arguments of American protectionists." Professor FAWCETT is blind.

THE decrease of imports at New York, last year, in the single article of dry goods, of $19,099,862, and of $56,114,449 in 1876 as compared with 1872, shows a most encouraging progress in the direction of national independence and self support.

THE depressed condition of the iron industry of free trade Germany is exhibited in a striking light by the accounts of thirty-two companies, of which only six make any dividend for the year 1875-6, while the balance of loss on the year's operation is £359,000, on a capital of about fifteen and a half millions.

AN Ohio law, passed many years ago, provided that whenever railroad dividends exceeded six per cent. the State might enter and regulate freight rates and salaries. This reservation has gone quietly to sleep, but the Grangers of that State now talk of waking it, and there is considerable excitement over the matter.

CHICAGO proposes to show St. Louis the way to utilize the Gulf route by creating a continuous line of railway to New Orleans of its own. The Illinois Central Railway Company have acquired a control over all the railways connecting New Orleans with the Illinois Central, so that Chicago has now an uninterrupted rail connection with the Crescent City.

SCHOOL-FUND thief HARRIS, the newly elected United States Senator from Tennessee for the long term, in a speech in response to a serenade tendered him on Tuesday in Nashville, spoke of the Union as a "glorious confederacy." The old State sovereignty poison still lingers in his veins, and that, coupled with his rascally antecedents, is probably the reason why the Tennessee Bourbons chose him as their representative.

NEW outlets are constantly opening for the boot and shoe trade of this country. For some months past there has been a growing export trade in the staple goods made in New England. This is beginning now to attract attention, and its influence upon general business forms a subject of inquiry and estimate. As long as rumors of war in Europe prevail there is much more likely to be a material increase than the smallest falling off in this line of consumption.

THE number of mercantile failures in Canada, last year, was 1,728, with liabilities to the amount of $25,517,991. The results of the year's business do not, according to the circular of DUN, BARLOW & CO., encourage the belief that the conditions of trade in the Dominion have much improved. The number of traders who have added to their capital is comparatively few; those who have held their own are to be congratulated; while those who have diminished their surplus are not inconsiderable.

THE Reading Railroad Company had a gross revenue, in 1876, of $13,919,993, and its running expenses were $6,129,757; yet, with this suplus of $7,790,236, its other expenses, such as interest on bonds, drawbacks, damages, losses, insurance, taxes, renewal fund, losses on canal, &c., leave a debt balance against the road, for the year, of $1,355,758. It blames this severe loss upon its connection with the coal producing and coal transporting companies, and claims that, since the disruption of the coal monopoly, it can earn enough to keep its head above water.

THE transfer to the States of Michigan, New York and North Carolina of the care and custody of the Indians and their lands in those States, will probably soon be made. Professor SEELYE's bill providing for such transfer having been favorably reported. The number of these Indians is about 17,200, of whom 2,200 are in Michigan, 5,000 in New York, and 10,000 in North Carolina. They are quite civilized, and their transfer to the care of those States will most likely prove to be the first step in the process of their absorbtion into the body politic.

THE St. Louis *Globe-Democrat's* Washington correspondent says:

I heard lately of a Virginia Democratic M. C. who, after hearing Randall and Fernando Wood bluster on the floor of the House, remarked quietly, "I don't—those fellows; they're mere wind bags. It was they who declared that their dead bodies should be walked over before we should be invaded in '61. My State was invaded, riddled, torn to pieces; so was the whole South; but their dead bodies didn't die a bit. They are dead enough so far as influencing the South is concerned; but the fools don't know they're dead; and when a politician is dead, and doesn't know it, he's the cussedest kind of a fool."

AMERICAN industry still advances on its conquering way. The Birmingham advices of the London *Times*, December 25, contain the following striking confessions:

Further advices this week from Australia and New Zealand testify to the increasing growth of American competition there, and a material part of the orders sent to this country now are for American made hardware, including not only edge tools, but carriage fittings and ironwork locks, bolts, tin-plate ware, etc. Great complaints are made of the inferior quality of finish of English edge tools and tin-plate goods, which the importers say they can only sell by masking them with a good show of American hardwares "to induce buyers to look round."

THE Senate inquiry into the Oregon fraud has developed the fact that the $8,000 sent to Oregon to influence the meeting of the electors in that State was obtained from a New York banking house through the agency of the cashier of the Third National Bank of New York, a bank in which Mr. TILDEN is a director. This is bringing the matter home very close to Mr. TILDEN; and there is scarcely room for doubt that he furnished this money to be used corruptly in stealing an electoral vote in Oregon. The case is all the stronger against him when it is considered that PELTON, Mr. TILDEN's relative and private secretary, was mixed up in the same disreputable affair.

THE good international effects of the Centennial Exposition are apparent from the fact that, generally speaking, the returned foreign commissioners have nothing but praise for the whole affair. About the only thing they seem to have disliked was the system of awards. Indeed, this appears to be the only complaint of any consequence that has been made by any foreign exhibitors. If the Exhibition had in no other sense been a success, it has certainly had the effect to make a certain class of foreigners better acquainted with our people and our institutions, while the numerous warm personal friendships that have sprung up can hardly fail to produce a pleasant influence on both sides of the water.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS.

The Chicago *Tribune* draws a fearful picture of the financial condition of the various municipalities of that State. It estimates the total debt of those municipalities at forty millions, represented by bonds which bear interest ranging from six to ten per cent. The $14,500,000 of railroad-aid debt bears an average of over nine per cent.; the debts of cities will average seven per cent., and the debts of school districts, towns and counties bear varying rates of seven, eight and ten per cent. It estimates that the whole of these municipal debts bear an average of eight per cent. interest, leaving the annual tax for interest on local debts about three and a quarter millions of dollars. These debts are a grievous burden to those who owe them, and in many instances it is so crushing that all hope of paying the principal has been abandoned. In some instances the payment of interest has been stopped, and the effect of the overwhelming debt has been to depreciate the value of property, prevent purchase and settlement, and has actually caused men to sell out their farms at a sacrifice and move elsewhere where the land was not mortgaged so heavily.

The *Tribune* proposes as a remedy for this calamitous condition of things that the State should step in and help these municipalities out of the slough of despond. The State of Illinois, it is well known, has practically no debt of her own. She has bonds outstanding amounting, now, to about a million and a half; but the taxes imposed upon the Illinois Central Railroad are pledged to their payment, and will extinguish them in the course of the next three or four years. The State, consequently, is in the best possible financial condition, and could now borrow money in the open market at five per cent. without the least trouble. But how is she to lift the swamped cities and counties out of the mud? The *Tribune* suggests that a plan that would relieve the distressed municipalities, secure the payment of the debts and tax no one unjustly, might be found in an amendment to the Constitution which would provide:

1. That on the 1st of July following the ratification of the amendment, the State of Illinois shall issue its bonds, having fifty years to run, bearing five per cent. interest, to any person surrendering therefor any of the outstanding bonds of any county, town, city, or any other municipal bonds or interest-bearing evidences of debt.

2. That upon the surrender of any such bonds, and the issue of State bonds in exchange, the taxable property within the county, city, or town by whom such bonds were issued and which became charged with an annual tax equal to the annual interest upon such bonds and the cost of collection, and equal to an additional amount equivalent to two per cent. of the principal of such bonds.

3. That the fund for interest and the two per cent. of principal be held by the State Treasurer, and applied to the payment of the interest on the State bonds, and to the purchase of such bonds in the open market.

The effect of the adoption of this suggestion would undoubtedly be to relieve the present pressure and open the way for a gradual but certain extinction of the present indebtedness. There is not a holder of a municipal bond who would not, in the existing condition of things, gladly exchange it for a State bond bearing five per cent. interest; and as all the taxes to pay principal and interest would come exclusively upon those who owe the present debt, the other taxpayers of the State would have no reason to complain. The State does not assume the local debt, and then levy a general tax to pay it; but simply acts as an agent to do for the people of particular localities what they cannot do for themselves. The scheme is feasible and plain, and can fail only because it is so easy and simple.

And why, if this plan can be put in operation in Illinois, can it not also be put into practical use in Pennsylvania? The State credit is good, she can borrow as much money as she pleases at five per cent.; and in all this she has the advantage of every municipal corporation within her limits. These corporations are now powerless to help themselves; they will be swamped utterly if they are not helped, and the State is the only power capable of helping them. The alternatives are that, or municipal bankruptcy.

Of course such a scheme involves an amendment to the Constitution, which would require, in this State, three years of waiting for its final adoption; but the certainty of its adoption would render it easy to bridge over that interval. Of course, also, it involves as an essential part of itself a peremptory restriction on the creation of any more municipal debt. This extraordinary use of the State credit to enable these municipalities to get out of debt can never be permitted to be used to enable them to get into the same condition again. The "pay-as-you-go" system, already compulsory because of the shameless extravagances and the abuses of the power to create debts by selling bonds, had better, as the *Tribune* urges, become the absolute rule—the only protection there is or can be against the waste and profligacy of bad local government; and bad local government is inevitable so long as there is power to sell bonds and expend the proceeds.

A BILL is now pending in the Legislature conferring jurisdiction on the separate orphans' courts of this State, to try issues of fact before a jury on disputed or contested wills and cognate branches. The measure provides, *inter alia*, that in all cases where a contest arises on the facts as to the making of a will, the competency of the testator and kindred matters, the parties shall have the right of trial by jury. Upon such demand, the clerk of the court shall prepare a list of forty-eight citizens, and furnish the same to the counsel, who shall thereupon have the right to challenge alternately thirty-six of the number so named, the remaining twelve to be summoned on a precept issued by the court. Of these twelve each party is to have the right of peremptory challenge for cause, the vacancy thus created to be supplied by the issuing of a further precept or *venire*. It is also provided that the judge may himself strike off such person or persons as he may think unfitted or disqualified by reason of infirmity, relationship, etc. This measure is one that meets our cordial approbation, as, we learn, it also does that of all the leading members of the bar, who realize the eminent propriety of having some such power lodged in this court. It is one of the anomalies of our law that the judges of our orphans' courts are required to hear all preliminary questions in many important cases, and when thoroughly conversant with all the points in a case, find them suddenly wrested away by a demand for an issue, triable only in courts of common pleas, where the whole investigation begins *de novo*. With the passage of this bill the delay, expense and uncertainty incident to the present course of procedure would be obviated, and the judge who heard the facts could speedily call to his aid a jury to pass upon any question of fact in dispute, thereby greatly expediting and cheapening litigation.

A FEW years ago Iowa went wild over sheep-raising, but what the dogs did not kill became diseased and died, and sheep-raising was abandoned. Then she went into the *in hog signo vinces* business, and now from all parts of the State come doleful reports of the great loss of hogs by disease, whose fearful ravages will materially affect the crop for fattening next fall, so that Iowa will be likely to fall far short of her full quota. This will prove a great loss to the State, which has become one of the greatest hog producing States in the Union, the crop figuring up by the millions. This does not prove that Iowa is not adapted to the successful growing of sheep and hogs, however. It is in regard to these, with farmers generally, as in regard to land. They have too much, and do not properly cultivate what they have.

THE Illinois Senatorial succession is just now the all-absorbing topic in that State. Balloting will begin next Tuesday. LOGAN's friends profess to be confident of his re-election, but the "Independents" apparently command the situation. The Legislature stands one hundred and one Republicans, ninety-eight Democrats and five Independents. To elect their candidate, whoever he may be, every vote of the Democrats and Independents is required, the total number of members of the two Houses being two hundred and fifty-four, of which one hundred and three are a majority, just the number of the combined vote of the Independents and Democrats. Four of the five Independents are of Republican antecedents, and voted for HAYES. These openly declare that they never will vote for any man for Senator who supported TILDEN for President, so that there is left but one possible way for the union of the Independents and Democrats, which is for the ninety-eight Democrats to agree to support an Independent, and just the Independent that the five Independent members may name. The important question is whether the Democrats will agree to this.

THERE are indications that Britannia, beginning to recognize the fact that she no longer rules the wave, is preparing a gigantic system of home defense. She is just now busily engaged in the construction of a two hundred ton gun, although there are not more than two or three English war vessels capable of carrying the recently completed eighty-one ton gun, which has yet to be tested. There are plenty of thirty-eight tons already, and yet a leading Government journal lately asserted that there are but two or three English vessels afloat capable of carrying anything heavier than a twelve ton gun. We suspect that the military authorities do not contemplate ever using those enormous weapons at sea, but the intention probably is to place these powerful guns permanently in position at every point on the coast where the landing of an army would be possible, and especially to defend the entrance to the Thames. England has a long line of sea coast, but there are comparatively few places where troops could be landed, and it would not be so difficult to render these practically secure as might be imagined.

THE New York *Times* argues that, because a few feeble Indian tribes on Long Island are fast approaching extinction, civilization is fatal to Indian existence. It says:

The American savage does not seem capable of withstanding the enervating influences of civilization, and losses his energy and his hold on existence as soon as he lays aside his barbarism. The fierce Sioux and the wild Huntington savages are still vigorous and formidable, but the peaceful Shinnecocks and Montauks and Cattaraugus Indians are doomed to speedy extinction.

How, then, does it happen that the Creeks, Choctaws, Cherokees and other Indian tribes now living on the Indian Reservation, have successfully withstood the influences of the change from barbarism to civilization? *They* seem to prosper under it, and why should the same change be fatal to others? The fact of the decay of the Long Island tribes is unquestionable; but it does not follow that the decay is attributable to a change which bettered their condition.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

We can all do more than we have done.
And not be a whit the worse;
I never was loving that emptied the heart,
Or giving that emptied the purse.

It is nearly time for the annual frost-killing of the the peach trees.

A history of Atlanta is about to be published. We helped a little to make it.

Wouldn't ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine do, Watterson?

The leading organs and orators of the Democratic party lie in a critical condition.

The Eads jetties are now officially certified to have twenty feet of water throughout.

A movement is on foot in New York to obtain emigrants from this country to New South Wales.

What injury did Pensacola ever inflict on Sam Bard? He is going to start a newspaper there.

Fruits of American industry. Very large shipments of apples to Europe are constantly being made.

Be not weary of pavement cleaning, for in due time if ye faint not ye will have respectable sidewalks.

The fire in the Lykens Valley mines threatens the destruction of two of the oldest collieries in the country.

Louisiana estimates the value of her crops, last year, at $40,000,000, the crops of cotton, rice and sugar being immense.

The Boston Democrats have raised $60,000 to resurrect the old Boston *Courier*. They say the *Post* will no longer do to tie to.

The Chicago *Tribune* says there is a large amount of the corn of the crop of 1876 in the country which farmers are anxious to sell and ship.

Tilden's proposed visit to Washington is said to be for the purpose of winning back his Southern allies, who are now rapidly deserting him.

A Boston store which rented for $17,000 last year, has just been leased for $5,000. The first was doubtless too high; the last is probably too low.

There is a story afloat that "Subsidy Pom," ex-statesman and briber, hopes to get back to the Senate again from Kansas. Advice to the Legislature: Don't.

Official announcement has been made by France that Germany, having refused to participate in the Exhibition of 1878, individual German applications cannot be received.

The editor of the Maryville (Tenn.) *Republican*, the only Democratic newspaper edited by colored men in the United States, has been appointed porter of the Tennessee Senate.

The Chicago banks, like those of New York, consider themselves driven by the pressure of taxation to choose whether they shall retire from business or reduce their capital.

Nebraska papers state that there has been no such general starvation of cattle as was reported. A few cattle only were lost on account of the bad weather of a week or two ago.

Buffalo is groaning over a city debt of $7,551,076, of which $423,785 was added in 1876, the latter alone being a mortgage of $7 on every $100 of real and personal property in the city.

Unless rain falls or a thaw takes place very soon, the mills at Cohoes, New York, will have to close for lack of water, and ten thousand operatives will be thrown out of employment.

Recent British ordnance experiments show that shells can be made with such sensitiveness as to burst after passing through the side of a ship, doing their work, therefore, inside.

The records of the Auditor General's office of this State show that actual defalcations on the part of county treasurers have been discovered since January, 1, 1876, amounting to $93,527 89.

The Chicago School Board has settled the "optional studies" question by deciding that a pupil need not study music, drawing or German unless its parents request in writing that it do so.

A poor iron bridge is much more of a man trap than a poor wooden one, and where companies cannot afford to put up the best class of the former let them put up the best class of the latter.

The Utica *Herald*, which ought to be well informed in the matter of disposing of the New York lateral canals, believes that all but the Black River Canal should be sold, leased or abandoned.

The introduction of postal cards has added greatly toward stimulating correspondence. The recent accession of France to the postal union will form another element of importance.

There has lately been a large increase in the amount of butter exported to England. The estimated amount of exports to foreign countries last year was 12,000,000 pounds, while in 1875 the amount was only 5,000,000.

An eminent Austrian scientist, who is engaged in a scientific examination of the brains and skulls of criminals, has thus far found them to be of an abnormal character. The deviation from a healthy development is in the direction of the brain of lower animals.

PERSONAL.

John Brown, Jr., son of old "Ossawatamie," is practicing law in San Bernardino, California. The widow and other members of the family are in the northern part of that State.

Where's Garrison? The Franklin Typographical Society of Boston has rejected the application of a colored printer, on the ground that the society is a social as well as a business organization.

One of the largest men in the United States, Samuel Riddleberger, died at Nashville, Tenn., the other day. He had weighed as much as 543¾ pounds, and at the time of his death he weighed 472 pounds. His coffin was the largest ever made in Nashville.

The inquisitive Emperor of Brazil is still on his travels. He has just "done" Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and is now gazing at the pyramids of Egypt and taking a trip up the Nile. While in Cairo his Democratic majesty declined to occupy one of the Khedive's palaces, and went to the hotel like any other tourist.

This pleasant story is told of Pius IX.: He observed a young man studying a painting by Raphael in the Vatican. "You are of the Academy, my son?" "No, your Holiness, I am too poor." "Go and put your name there, and I will pay the fees." "But, your Holiness, I am a Protestant." "The Academy is for artists, and that is enough for me."

John Humiston, of Woodburn, Clarke county, Iowa, now and then sadly turns to a bureau drawer and takes therefrom a parchment bearing the sign-manual of Uncle Sam, and the conveyance of 160 acres of land, whereon now stands the city of Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska. He didn't like the lay of the land, and abandoned his claim. He feels bad about it now.

England has another tombstone difficulty to enliven it. The widow and friends of a very famous cricketer had engraved upon his tombstone the well-known symbols of his profession—the bat, balls, and set of stumps. The vicar of the parish would not see his churchyard so desecrated, and ordered the monument to be removed, or the objectionable picture effaced. The widow refuses, and there is to be a lawsuit about it.

New York has a chiropodist who had engaged to extract the corns from the feet of a young sprig of shoddy. After performing the operation the carpet was covered with what he alleged to be veritable corns, and as his fees were in proportion to the number extracted, the young fellow found himself saddled with a heavy bill. Some suspicion having been excited, he had a portion of the extracted corns analyzed, when they proved to bear about the same relation to real corns that the Yankee's shoe-pegs did to oats. The guilty chiropodist was at once arrested, and is now awaiting his trial.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. Practical Studies for the Conservation of the Health of Girls. By Tullio Suzzara Verdi, A. M., M. D., author of "Maternity," etc. Published by J. B. Ford & Co., New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

Without questioning the utility of this class of books, it must be conceded that there is still much need for information relative to womanhood, and therefore this work by an intelligent and reputable physician is entitled to consideration by those for whom it was specially written. There are some things that daughters should learn from their mothers, and ignorance upon the part of either or both may cause much suffering which might have been prevented. Its hygienic features, especially the treatment of the critical period of girl-life, render the work valuable. Delicate as is the subject, the whole book is written in a chaste style, and ought not to foster an impure thought.

MY MOTHER'S MANUSCRIPT. By Alphonse De Lamartine. Translated from the French by Maria Louise Helper. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this charming volume we have represented a true picture of the private life of a French family during many of the eventful periods of the nineteenth century, with annotations, prologues and epilogues. It possesses remarkable interest in the fact, that it is a veritable journal of the poet Lamartine's mother, and it becomes the heritage of the public more from the necessities of the poet than from any other cause, and its publication was only delayed in deference to him until after his death. Its value is enhanced by the fact that it was not written with the view of publication, and it therefore uncovers to the public gaze the throbbings of a pure womanhood. There is also much information of the early career of the great Lamartine, and of the uprising in France of 1848. It also gives a beautiful picture of true French home-life. Taking the book as a whole, it deserves high praise and a wide circulation.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO RELIGION. By Theodore Parker. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh. Paper covers. Fourth edition.

This is a remarkable book in many respects. The system of religion taught by Theodore Parker was unique, extremely radical, bold in thought and at the time deemed of the most heterodox type. Since the demise of Parker, other great lights of the liberal faith, such as Herbert Spencer, Darwin, Tyndall, Huxley and Renan, have impressed the age with their advanced views on science and religious thought. The work opens with an introduction by O. C. Frothingham, and a biographical sketch by Hannah E. Stevenson. It comprises five parts, namely: Religious Elements and its Manifestations; Inspiration; Christianity; Bible, and the Church. These discourses occupy 466 pages, and are supplied with copious foot notes, citing authorities to sustain the views of Mr. Parker. His style is chaste and clear.

MADCAP VIOLET. By William Black. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

A very charming story, in which the wilful, but beautiful heroine Violet North and her love episodes, are sketched with great force. Aside from the story, it abounds with felicitous descriptions of characters, robed in chaste and wholesome language. The unhappy ending awakens the sympathies of the reader. The characters are all drawn with much precision. The volume is robed in green cloth. Mr. Black gives promise of a brilliant career.

RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN. By Rev. N. Vansant, of New Jersey. Published by Nelson & Phillips, New York. For sale by Dr. J. Horner, Pittsburgh.

Many a bereaved one will find consolation in this little book, especially parents. It presents in a clear and distinct manner the grounds of encouragement to bereaved parents; and it will be useful to place in the hands of ministers to distribute among their people.

A STRANGE SEA-STORY. A Temperance Tale. By Mrs. Julia McNair Wright, author of "Dug-or-Not," &c. Published by National Temperance Society and Publishing House. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Much interest will be felt by the reader of this story at the outset, from the fact that in many respects it is founded on facts. It is indeed a strange story, but one of horrid cruelty, mainly growing out of the intoxicating bowl. The incidents of the story have been wrought out with thrilling effect. Perhaps the main point is to show the relation of intemperance to all the casualties and evils of the sailor's life.

THE LESSON COMPEND FOR 1877. By Rev. Jesse L. Hurlbert, A. M. Published by Nelson & Phillips, New York. For sale by Dr. J. Horner, Pittsburgh.

This is justly regarded as a superior work, the author being a practical Sunday school man, and one with broad and large catholic views. We know of no work of the kind that deserves so wide a circulation as this, among all denominations. The Notes are terse and clear, and cannot fail to give satisfaction.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston.

This giant publication has just entered on a new series, in which important changes have been made to popularize and elevate its standard. The new arrangement to publish it bi-monthly instead of quarterly, at $5 00 per year, instead of $6 00, ought to increase its circulation. The plan of the *Review* is enlarged, that all the questions of the age may be discussed. It is wholly independent in thought and is not the organ of any party. Current topics will be considered and living issues discussed. The following papers comprise its contents: Points in American Politics, by Richard H. Dana, Jr.; Daniel Deronda, reviewed by Edwin P. Whipple; Richard Wagner's Theories of Music, by E. Gryzanowski; Bret Harte, by E. S. Nadal; the Triumph of Darwinism, by John Fiske, and the Eastern Question. We hope this sterling review will enjoy a circulation commensurate with its excellencies.

JOSHUA HAGGARD'S DAUGHTER. By Miss M. E. Braddon. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh. Paper covers.

This story is presented with all that charm of expression so prominent in all the former efforts of Miss Braddon. It is one in which our interest never flags, for there is a constant succession of spirited dialogue, well drawn descriptions of places where the various acts occur, and an excellent portrayal of the characters introduced.

SHADOWS ON THE SNOW. A Christmas Story. By B. L. Farjeon, author of "Blade-o'-Grass," "Grif," &c. Paper, 25 cents. Published by Harpers. For sale by Clarke & Co.

The London *Standard* says for delicacy of touch, for pathos, for a knowledge of the thoughts and ways of the lower class, and above all, for his delineation of children, he has few equals among living authors; in the last item, indeed, the delineation of children, the author of "Grif" is unapproachable.

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DRY GOODS

1877.

CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL BARGAINS NOW ON COUNTERS!

AT WILLIAM SEMPLE'S,

Nos. 165, 167 and 169 Federal Street, Allegheny, Pa.

☞ With purchases made this week Assortment of Goods for all of our numerous Departments, while invoices of goods to which we respectfully invite a close and critical examination as to Value a

At 5 and 6¼c, best makes Dark Fast Colored Calicos.
At 6¼c, choice new line best Shirting Calicos.
At 6¼c, good yard-wide Dark Colored Chintzes.

AT 25c, LOOM TA

At 37½c, Satin Finish Bleached Table Damasks
At 6¼ and 8c, extra heavy All Linen Crash for Towelings
At 10 and 12½c, Wide and very Heavy Plain Twilled Towelings.

AT 12½

At 10 and 12½c, Heavy Barred Shirting Flannels.
At 15 and 18½c, Heavy Wool Barred Shirting Flannels.

AT 12½c, NEW A

At 25 and 30c, newest shades in English Basket Suitings, worth 50c.
At 30, 33 and 37½c, wide double-fold Colored and Black Cashmeres.

AT 25c,

At 62½, 70 and 75c, just opened, new line of Colored Cashmeres.
At 80, 85, 90c and $1, very superior value in Colored Cashmeres.

AT 4 SPOOLS F

At 5c, a lot of Ladies' Wool Felt Bonnets.
At 12½c, another lot of Ladies' Best Wool Felt Hats.
At 12½c, Ladies' Black Real Silk Windsor Ties.

AT 12½c, NO. 30 TWIL

At 18½c, Children's All Linen Slips and Aprons
At 12½c up, Misses and Ladies' White and Colored Aprons.
At 12½c, all colors Woolen Fringes, worth 25c.

AT $2 00,

At $2 00, Ladies' Heavy Wool Beaver Cloth Sacques.
At $2 50, Ladies' extra Cloth Sacques, worth $4.

☞ SPECIAL NOTICE—In addition to our opening now New Goods for each. New importations of Irish and Scotch Prints, New Chintzes, New Dress Goods, Linen Goods, now at hand and opening, and critical examination as to Value a

AT 10c, 4-4 "FRUIT-OF-THE LOOM"

At 5 and 6¼c, good heavy Unbleached Sheetings.
At 7 and 8c, best 4-4 Standard Sheetings.
At 12½c, 46-inch Bleached Pillow Case Muslin

BLE LINENS, JUST RECEIVED TO-D

At 81½, 10 and 12½c, extra size All Linen Towelings.
At 25c to $1 25, special bargains in Imported Towels.

c, EXTRA HEAVY DARK GREY TWI

At 20 and 22c, Extra Heavy Wool Barred Shirting Flannels.
At 25 and 28c, extra good value in Barred Flannels.

ND CHOICE ASSORTMENT PEAID A

At 25c, newest shades in Cashmere and Alpaca Brocades.
At 18½c, choicest shades Colored Cashmeres, worth 25c.

A SPECIAL BARGAIN IN BLACK AL

At 50, 62½ and 75c up, best possible value in Black Cashmeres.
At $1, assorted shades Brown Dress Silks.
At $1 25 up, all colors in Colored Dress Silks.

OR 19c, GEO. A. CLARK'S O N. T., O

At 25c, another line of good shapes Wool Felt Hats.
At 15c, Ladies' Cardinal and Light Green Real Silk Ties.

LED ALL SILK RIBBON, IN CARDIN

At 5c up, new assortment Hamburg Edgings and Insertings.
At 50 and 75c, Trimmed Hats, worth $1 50 and $2.

AT $1 50, LADIES' HEAVY WO

At $3, Ladies Cloth Sacques, worth $4.
At $1, Full Size Heavy Calico Comforts.
At $3, Full Size Husk Mattrasses.

n to the above, on each counter in our p w Prints, New Chintzes, New Dress Go Linen Gords, now at hand and opening,

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE

The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the firm name of SCHOMAKER & GUSTAVE LANGENHEIM and OTIS SHEPARD, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent, WM. SCHOMAKER having sold and transferred his interest in said partnership to his copartners, GUSTAVE LANGENHEIM and OTIS SHEPARD.

WM. SCHOMAKER,
GUSTAVE LANGENHEIM,
OTIS SHEPARD.

Pittsburgh, January 10, 1877.

Copartnership.

Having purchased the entire interest of WM. SCHOMAKER in the firm of SCHOMAKER & CO., we have this day formed a partnership, under the firm name of LANGENHEIM & SHEPARD, and will continue the WHOLESALE GROCERY, FLOUR and PROVISION BUSINESS at the old stand, Nos. 52 and 54 SEVENTH AVENUE, Pittsburgh.

GUSTAVE LANGENHEIM,
OTIS SHEPARD.

DISSOLUTION.—THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent. C. F. BRETTHOLLE is authorized to settle the business of the late firm will be settled by C. F. KUHLMAN.

C. F. KUHLMAN,
C. F. BRETTHOLLE.

Allegheny City, January 9, 1877.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned at Pittsburgh, Pa., under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and McCLURE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, which will continue to be conducted by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO. The claims and accounts due by or to the late firm will be settled at No. 24 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa., by G. T. RAFFERTY.

E. W. McCLURE.
G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned asks for his succeeding partner the continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.

E. W. McCLURE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877.

HOTELS.

IMPERIAL HOTEL,

The Only First-class Three-Dollar-per-Day Hotel in Washington.

In order to meet the wants of the Traveling Public, this First-class Hotel has reduced its price from Four to Three Dollars per day. The above House is pleasantly located near Fourteenth street, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue, is convenient to the CITY, ARMY, Navy, State, Patent and Interior Departments.

N. B.—Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Horse Cars, and tell the Conductor to let you off at the Imperial Hotel.

JAMES S. EILBECK, Proprietor.

LA PIERRE HOUSE,

COR. BROAD & CHESTNUT STS., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Best location in the city; greatly enlarged and improved; fifty rooms added; hydraulic; hot and cold water; passenger elevator, and all modern improvements; fitted up in elegant style; first class in all its appointments.

Terms—$2 50 to $4 per day, according to location of rooms, for one day or upwards.

Special rates to families and commercial men.

J. B. BUTTERWORTH,
WS Proprietor.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,

(FORMERLY HARE'S HOTEL.)

No. 133 Liberty Street, Foot of Fifth Avenue.

TERMS $2 PER DAY.

HUGH KEYS, Proprietor.

CARPETS.

CARPETS!

DRUGGETS,

OIL CLOTHS,

MATTINGS.

As we near stock taking, we offer SPECIAL BARGAINS.

BOVARD, ROSE & CO.,

29 Fifth Avenue.

ALL GOODS

AT

Greatly Reduced Prices,

TO SUIT THE TIMES.

HOLIDAY GIFTS!

FINE PRESENTATION BOOKS,

FINE EDITIONS STANDARD AUTHORS,

BOOKS for CHILDREN

FINANCE AND TRADE.

FRIDAY EVENING, January 12, 1877.

Business moves along quietly at the banks, money being easy and the offerings of prime commercial paper quite light. Affairs of trade and finance are generally in a state of waiting and not much can be conjectured of the future of business from the present state of affairs. Discount rates continue rather weak, and the banks having paid their dividends and made their statements would be glad to discount paper quite freely if first-class business notes were to be had in any volume for that purpose. Prime commercial paper is taken at the banks at rates ranging from 6@8 per cent. (principally 7@8 per cent.), with street rates ruling at 7@10 per cent.; loans on first-class collaterals are quoted at 5@6½ per cent. The bank statements are a fruitful topic of desultory discussion in financial circles. They show a great strength and ease in the condition of the banks, and are generally very satisfactory.

—The call of the Secretary of the Treasury for $10,000,000 more five twenties of 1865 makes a total of $60,000,000 called on account of the present syndicate. This call leaves $80,558,650 outstanding of the old five twenties of 1865. It has had no very marked effect on the prices for Government bonds, from which it is assumed that the syndicate had found a market for $10,000,000 four and a half per cents before it requested the Government to call that amount of sixes. The operation is therefore an exchange of securities with the not unimportant result of a reduction of one and a half per cent. in the annual interest charge of the Government. The New York *Post* gets in a few words in this connection for preparation for specie resumption, as follows: "If the Treasury had simply sold $10,000,000 of four and a half per cent. bonds, or for that matter five per cent. bonds, for gold, the effect would have been, if the bonds had been taken here, to transfer from the market to the vaults of the Treasury $10,000,000 of gold which would have been available for Treasury resumption in 1879. The present exceptional condition of the gold market would have made such an operation possible. Had this been done (and the Secretary has ample authority for doing it under the Resumption act) the annual interest charge would of course have been increased $450,000; but this would have been much more than counter balanced by the fact that an important addition had been made to the gold resources of the Treasury."

—The returns of the following named roads for the entire year 1876 exhibits a gain over 1875 of a trifle over $1,500,000. This is most noticeable in Canada Southern, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern and Denver and Rio Grande:

GROSS EARNINGS FROM JANUARY 1, 1876, TO JANUARY 1, 1877.

	1876.	1875.
Atch. T. & S. Fe	$ 2,490,796	$ 2,423,505
Burl. C. R. & Nor.	1,128,671	1,111,377
Canada Southern	1,385,952	1,285,752
Cairo & St. Louis	204,161	202,386
Ill. Cent. & Chic.	4,970,259	4,970,259
Chicago & Alton	4,796,503	4,656,764
Chi. Mil. & St. P.	10,900,000	10,900,000
Denver & Rio G.	482,115	391,246
Illinois Central	7,656,776	7,656,776
Ind. Bloom. & W.	1,309,509	1,248,744
Ind. & G. North.	1,453,842	1,396,751
L. Shore & M. So.	11,777,000	11,777,000
Michigan Central	6,883,734	6,837,792
Mo., Kan. & Texas	2,422,436	2,422,436
St. L., I. M. & S.	4,696,196	3,800,079
St. L., K. C. & N.	2,500,000	2,500,000
St. L. & T. H.	497,923	561,900
Toledo, P. & W.	1,411,821	1,120,697
Total	10,141	882,481,768
Increase		1,966,983

*Fourth week December estimated.

The December earnings of some of the Western roads compare unfavorable with the business of the corresponding month in 1875. On the whole, however, the falling off on nineteen roads is not very marked.

—The question of bank taxation is being agitated quite warmly in the East and in the meantime the reduction of bank capital in New York goes on rapidly, the Metropolitan and the Gallatin having decided upon reductions aggregating $3,000,000. In New York, where the taxes reach five per cent. of capital, measures of relief should undoubtedly be taken, but it may be questioned whether the State taxations and methods of assessment should not be made the point of attack. Here the taxation of the banks is not felt to be particularly burdensome. While a reduction or Federal taxation is eminently desirable, we doubt whether a movement for that end just at present is likely to terminate satisfactorily. Two bills have been introduced into Congress to relieve banks from that part of the burden of their taxes. Both have come from Representative Willis, of New York. The first we have already given the points of, and the second is declaratory to the meaning of section 5 219 of the Revised Statutes of the United States concerning the taxation of bank shares. The State Legislatures must be appealed to by the banks for any such changes as are desirble in the manner of assessing property and determining the rate of taxation.

—The New York *World* notices a feature of the banking business for the past year and pushes the application of it to an extremity as follows: "In the meanwhile, the legislation cannot be had in season, the banks look at home, and compute what they have lost in the year 1876 by continuing to hold their United States bonds. In October, the national banks of this city held $35,300,000 of Governments. The decline in the currency value of these bonds, comparing yesterday with January 8, 1876, is 7 per cent on gold 6's and 6½ on 5's; the loss in principal wiped out the year's interest. Why not observe the signs of the times, and sell out the bonds, including those deposited as security for circulation, and transact a strictly banking business until paper is once more at par with gold? It is certainly no fault of the system of taxation that the banks have held $35,300,000 of assets for twelve months on a declining market."

—A report from the San Francisco mint shows that the value of gold coinage there during 1876 was $32,022,500 and of silver $42,704,000, the total number of pieces coined being 30,382,000. The coinage for the month of December was of the value of $4,447,000, being 2,411,000 pieces.

—Nevada, the silver State, is pouring out daily $125,000 in silver, $75,000 in gold, $8,000 in lead, and $2,000 in other metals, making a yield of $210,000 daily, or $65,000,000 per annum. California, Colorado and Utah are mining daily about $122,000 worth of metals, or $37,400,000 annually.

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 106.

NEW YORK, January 12.—Money easier at 4@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent. Customs receipts $203,000 The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $494,000. Clearings $22 000,000. Sterling dull at 483@485.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 106, closing at 105¾. Carrying rates 5@7 per cent. Silver at London not quoted; the last price was 57½ pence per ounce; here bar silver is 131½ per ounce in greenbacks and 124 in gold; silver coin 124¾.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Railroad bonds generally firm. State securities steady. One of the most prominent features of Wall street to-day was the sudden and sharp advance in Government bonds. The immediate cause of this advance was the fact that within the past few days some enormous purchases of Governments have been made for investment, a California bank taking $2,000,000 and an Eastern institution $1,000,000; individual investors were also in the market. The speculative interest in stocks to-day was centered in two stocks, Western Union and Illinois Central, one remarkable for strength and the other for weakness. Western Union advanced from 73¾ to 74¼, closing at the latter figure; Illinois Central dropped from 62½ to 60¾, and closed at 61. The fluctuations in the other shares were confined within narrow limits and attracted comparatively little attention. Transations 76,000 shares, of which 33,000 were Western Union, 8,000 St. Paul, 11,000 Lake Shore, 6,000 Michigan Central and 2,000 Illinois Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel.	74¼	N. J. Central	35¼
Quicksilver	15	Rock Island	100¾
Do. preferred	31	Pitts., Fwn.	
Pacific Mail	23¾	Do. preferred	51¾
Mariposa	6¼	Toledo & Wabash	24
Do. preferred	15¾	Ft. Wayne	100¼
Adams Express	108	Terre Haute	4¾
Wells-Fargo Ex.	85½	Do. preferred	7
American Ex.	57½	Chicago & Alton	99
United States Ex.	85½	Do. preferred	109
New York Central	103¾	Chicago & Mississippi	7
Erie	9¾	Del. & Lack.	76½
Do. preferred	21¾	Atlantic & Pac.	15½
Harlem	137	Missouri Pacific	35¾
Do. preferred	133	Atlantic & P. pref.	2
Michigan Central	47½	Illinois Central	62¾
Panama	122	Bur. & Quincy	117½
Lake Shore	54¾	Hannibal & St. Joe.	13¼
Cleve. and Pitts.	66	Do. pref. stock	31
Cleve. and Pitts.	90	Central Pac. bds.	106
Northwestern	54¾	Union Pac. bds.	105½
Do. preferred	55½	Do. land grants	90½
C., C., C. & I.	37	Do. S. F. bonds	94½

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	113½	New 5's	111¾
5-20's, 1865	108½	New 4½'s	107¾
5-20's, 1865, new	108½	4's, registered	112¾
5-20's, 1867	112	10-40's, coupons	115
5-20's, 1868	113	Currency 6's	122¾

OTHER BONDS.

Tennessee, old	49¾	Virginia, old	30
Tennessee, new	43¾	Missouri 6's	104¾
Virginia, new	44		

LONDON, January 12, 5 P. M.—Consols

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, January 12, 1877.

We make some alterations in our quotations on the articles of oats, flour, dried fruits, potatoes, bacon, cut meats and sugars. Other articles remain the same as at previous quotations.

Flour is advancing, and still higher rates are anticipated. The receipts are fair and the market is pronounced fairly active, both as regards the local and shipping demands.

Wheat continues to come in slowly, and prices remain unchanged. Notwithstanding the fact that wheat is just about as low in this market as in the West, our mills buy but sparingly, holding that there is no margin of profit on flour at the present rates of good merchantable wheat. The market is quiet and firm.

Standard A, B and C and outlof sugars have declined ¼c per ₱., and crushed and powdered advanced ¼c. The market is firm with a good amount of sales being effected.

Potatoes are more plentiful since milder weather has set in, and prices are consequently shaded. Prime peachblows, car lots and rack are selling at $1 15@1 20 per bushel.

Bacon is a shade higher on short rib sides, clear sides and extra sugar cured hams. The demand is reported firm and trade moderately active.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	500	Apples bbls	12
Corn, bus	1,533	Barley, bushels	1,520
Oats, bus	1,573	Butter, pkgs	84
Potatoes, bush	439	Hay, bales	120

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The grain market presents no new features with the exception of oats which has declined to 1c per bushel for prime white. With this alteration we reproduce yesterday's figures. The receipts in these are not heavy, but with a light demand are fully sufficient to meet the local demand. We quote as follows: Prime red wheat $1 40@1 43 ₱ bushel; prime amber $1 45; prime white $1 49@1 50. Corn is firm on new car, and prices are steady, as follows: Old shelled 45@47c ₱ bushel for prime yellow and high mixed; new car 42@45c; prime new shelled 51@ 53c. Oats are in good supply but no to-ver sales at 37@38c ₱ bushel for prime white; mixed 36@ 37c. Rye is quoted at 75@75c. Barley quiet at 80c for choice; 70@75c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 00; low grades 60c; market dull. Job lots sales at the customary advance.

FLOUR—We will reproduce the prices quotations on Wisconsin, Minnesota and No. 1 white wheat flours. Other varieties remain unchanged. Prices seem to point up. We quote as follows: No. 1 white wheat flour $5 00 ₱ barrel; No. 1 amber do $5 75; prime red wheat flour $7 00; Wisconsin ₱ 0@7 25; Minnesota $7 25; fancy St. Louis $9 00 ₱ barrel; Superfine flour $3 50@3 75 ₱ barrel; family do $4 50@5 00 ₱ barrel; oatmeal $7 50@8 00 ₱ barrel; kegs $1 00@1 50; rye flour $4 75@5 00 ₱ barrel.

HAY—The market is moderately active with sales of timothy from wagon at $12 00@13 00 ₱ ton; No 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00 from first hands baled, Prairie—Upland ₱ 10 00@13 00; mixed $9 00 @10 00.

MILL FEED—Is steady at the following rates: Bran $14 00@14 50 ₱ ton; middlings $20 00@22 00; second and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—Prime unfrosted apples are scarce and in demand at $1 50@1 60 ₱ bushel; fair to good $1 2½@1 50; common 80c@$1 00, and dull sale.

APPLE BUTTER—The market is quiet with sales at 6½@8c ₱ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 28@30 ₱ ₱.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 00 for prime white navy.

BROOM CORN—Prices unchanged. Choice hurl 6½c, as to quality; brush hurl will work up to 5½c; medium green 4@4½c; red-topped 3@4c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 3@ per cent. off the prices given as to quality.

BUTTER—Prime butter is in fair receipt and good demand at lower rates. We quote as follows: Choice creamery rolls 28@30c; prime to choice solid packed 25@27c; fair roll 20@23c; choice dairy rolls 24@26c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is moderately active and steady. Prices quoted are we quote at $3 75@4 00 per cwt.; $7 25@7 50 per bbl.

CHEESE—We quote prime Ohio factory at 14 @14½c in round lots; jobbing at 14½@15c. New York Goshen 16c in round lots; 15½@16c in a jobbing way. Young America 15@15½c; skims 12c.

CRANBERRIES—The supply is sufficient and prices remain at $8 00@10 00 ₱ bbl; $3 25@3 50 ₱ bushel.

EGGS—Prices range from $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $5 00@5 50 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUITS—Dull and prices unchanged. We quote dried apples nominal at 5@7c ₱ ₱ for prime; dried peaches 13c; evaporated peaches 30c.

DRIED PEAS—There is a good demand for new crop at $1 00@1 10 ₱ bush.

SEEDS—There is as yet but little inquiry. The asking rates from store are: Clover seed ₱ 60 @3 25 ₱ bushel of 62 lbs; timothy seed ₱ 00@2 15.

EGGS—Very scarce, with a good demand at unchanged prices. We quote: Strictly fresh 30@32c ₱ dozen, and scarce; pickled are plenty at 22@25c, and not fancied.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 60@65c in whole sale lots; lower qualities 50@60c.

POULTRY—Dressed chickens sell for 12@13c ₱ ₱. The market is reported dull. We quote live turkeys at 7c@8½ 00 each; dressed 12@14c ₱ ₱. Dressed chickens 12@13c ₱ ₱; live chickens 5 coop 40@45c ₱ pair. Ducks, live, 45@50c ₱ pair; dressed 12@ 14c ₱ ₱. Geese 50@60c each.

POTATOES—Receipts are fair. We quote car lots peachblows, car lots, on track, $1 15@1 20 ₱ bu-hel; early rose, car lots, on track, $1 15@ 1 25; do, from store, $1 25; Jersey sweets, ₱ barrel $4 50@5 00; Baltimore sweets, choice, $3 50@4 00; Southern sweets, $5 00@5 50.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 17 @19c ₱ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

WOOL—Common fleece, ₱ ₱, 32c; ¼ to ⅓ blood, ₱ ₱, 35@37c; combing, ₱ ₱, 38c; fullwashed, ₱ ₱, 38c; city pullings, ₱ ₱, 25@32c; unwashed, ₱ ₱, 18@20c.

Provisions.

BACON—The receipts of bulkmeats foot up 3,650 pieces. We quote as follows: shoulders 8c ₱ ₱; short rib sides 10c; clear sides 10@10½c.

CURE AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 13c ₱ ₱ for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy, and we quote sugar-cured at 13½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 16c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—Following are the ruling quotations: Kettle lard, tierces, 12¼c; 5-lb tins 13c; pails 13½c. Refined lard—Tierces 13c; ½-bbls 13¼c; 2-lb tins 13¾c; 3-lb tin pails 13½c; 5-lb do, 13½; 6-lb do, 13c; 7-lb caddies, 13¼c; 5-lb do 15c. Leaf lard 12c in tierces.

LARD OIL—Market quiet at the following quotations: Extra winter strained 95@98c ₱ gal; No. 1, 76@78c; No. 2, 60@65c.

MESS PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: $18 50@19 00 ₱ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' city rendered, at 9@9½c ₱ ₱; country do 7¾@8c ₱ ₱; rough 5½@6c ₱ ₱.

Groceries.

Following is the regular list of quotations for this day. Market reported quiet and firm, with a fair demand at the following quotations:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	25c	Standard A	11½c
Choice Rio	24½c	Standard B	11½c
Prime Rio	23½c	Do. extra C	11¼c
Good Rio	23c	Extra C—yellow	10½@10¾c
Ordinary Rio	20 c	C—yellow	9¾@ 9¾c
Java	30@32c	Franklin	10½@10¾c
Roasted Coffee.		New Orleans	8¾@10½c
Rio, in papers	29 c	Cut Loaf	12½c
10 grades do	29@32c	Granulated	12½c
Rio, in bulk	28½c	Powdered	12½c
Java, in papers	32 c	Granulated	12½c
Java, in bulk	30½c	*Molasses.*	₱ gal.
Teas.		Str'y ch. N. O.	60@62c
Young Hyson	25@61 00	Prime	55@56c
Gunpowder	35c@ 00	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30c@ 00	Ex. white drips	54@55c
Japan	35c@ 00	Sugar drips	50c
Oolong	25c@	Lower grades	25@45c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*	₱ lb
Selections	28@	Pearl	3½@4 c
Spices (whole.)		Silver gloss	9c
Cloves	45 c	Corn	7½@10½c
Allspice	17 c	Chicago gloss	8 c
Cassia	30@31 c	Chicago corn	8½c
Nutmegs	1 lb	*Rice.*	
Pepper	18 c	Choice Carolina	6¼@7 c
Soaps.		Louisiana	5½@6¼c
Irish soap, ₱ box	4 20	*Sodas.*	
S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75	Bi-carb, in kegs	5½@5¾ c
Rabbit's best, ₱ box	6 75	Bi-carb, in 10-lb pkgs	5½ c
Gold do	5	Bi-carb, in 5-lb papers	6½c
Extra Olive do	3 80	Candles.	
Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	5	c star. full w't	16 c
German mottled	4½@7 c	Sperm candles	40@43c
California, ₱ box	4 20	Mould	11½@

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations at which sales are made:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel	27 00	Round herring	6 00
Extra No. 2 mackerel	20 00	Split Labrador	7 00
Extra No. 1 bay	17 00	Lake Pick., hf-bbls	3 50
Extra No. 2 bay	12 00	Lake Herring, do.	3 00
No. 1 large	12 00	Lge Georges cod-fish, ₱ ₱	6
No. 2 medium	12 50	Medium Georges	5½
Large No. 3	11 00	Scaled Herring	50
No. 3 medium	10 00	Halibut, ₱ ₱	12½
Whitefish, hf-bbls	5 00	No. 1 Herring, ₱ box	25
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is quiet at unchanged prices. We quote: Layers raisins, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $2 25; Muscatel do, $2 30; Valencias, $4 @5 ₱ mat; Valentias, new, 10c ₱ ₱; Sultanas 17c. Dates 8@9c ₱ ₱. Currants 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes 6½@ monds—Languedoc 22c; do shelled 38c; do Princess 45c; do Jordan 55c, do Ivica 23c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Smyrna figs, new, 18c. Brazil nuts 10c. Maccaroni 11@13c. Cayenne pepper 35c. Lemons—Palermo, ₱ box, $5 00. Oranges—Florida $3 50 ₱ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 50 ₱ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—No change in prices. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans ₱ dozen, $2 25; raspberries do $2 00; strawberries do $1 90; gooseberries do $1 30; pineapples do, $2 20; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 2 ₱ cans per doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $8 50; half-bbls, $5 00.

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 20@2 25 ₱ gallon; high wines at $1 12 ₱ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—Market quiet. We quote: Extra sunny bags, 22c; do second-hand 22c; Union cags 24c; American A's 30c; Philadelphia A's 33c; California grain bags 9c; English do 12c; Penn Mill 3 bushel 42c; do 2½ bushel 36c; do 2 bushel 30c; Allegheny 2 bushel do 28c.

BAKING POWDER—Quoted as follows: ½ ₱ cans at $1 20 ₱ dozen; 1 ₱ cans $2 00; 2 ₱ cans $5 50; 5 ₱ cans $25 00; 10 ₱ boxes 40c ₱ ₱. Market steady and demand good.

BROOMS—The market rules quiet and firm at the following quotations:

	Per foot.		Per foot.
1 inch wide	½	5 inches wide	53
1¼ inch wide	6¼	5¼ inches wide	63
1½ inches wide	13	6 inches wide	69
2¼ inches wide	27	7 inches wide	81
3 inches wide	35	8 inches wide	93
3¼ inches wide	41	9 inches wide	117
4 inches wide	45	12 inches wide	141
4½ inches wide	51	14 inches wide	165
5 inches wide	57		

Discount 10 to 25 per cents, as to quality and quantity.

BROOMS—The demand is fair at former prices. The following are jobbing rates as quoted by manufacturers' agents:

No. 1 hurl	$1 50
No. 2 hurl	1 75
No. 3 hurl	2 00
No. 4 hurl	2 25
No. 5 hurl	2 50
No. 6 hurl	2 75
No. 3 carpet	3 00
No. 4 carpet	3 50
No. 5 carpet	4 00
No. 6 carpet	4 50
No. 4 fancy parlor	4 00
No. 5 fancy parlor	4 25
Railroad (extra heavy)	2 75@3 25
Hotel, fine corn (extra heavy)	3 00@3 50
Whisks, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 25@1 75
Toy brooms	75
Misses' brooms	2 00

HIDES AND LEATHER—We give the following as the ruling quotations:

Leather.

Oak sole, country ₱ ₱	36@	38
Oak sole, city	39@	38
Red sole, Buenos Ayres heavy	29@	32
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid	29@	32
Red sole, Orinoco and Calls. heavy	29@	31
Red sole, Orinoco and Calls. mid	28@	31
Red sole, stout damage	25@	26
Oak, rough	34@	37
Harness, city oak	34@	37
Harness, country	29@	32
Harness, No. 2 and common	26@	28
Collar, oak sides, ₱ foot	16@	17
Fair skirting ₱ ₱	37@	40
Fair bridle, ₱ doz	54 00@	66 00
Belt leather ₱ ₱	38@	41
Finished calf	90@	$1 20
Finished upper, ₱ foot	16@	20
Finished Kips ₱ ₱	90@	1 20

Hides.

Green salted cows	8@ 8½
Green salted steers, light	8 @ 8½
Green salted steers, heavy	9 @ 9½
Green salted calf	12 @13
Green butcher cows	5½
Green butcher steers, light	6
Green butcher steers, heavy	7
Green butcher calf	10

HEMP—The demand is active at $130 00 for Kentucky rough.

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2½@2½c ₱ ₱; and woolen 3½c.

STOVE POLISH—Sales are made at $5 75 ₱ gross.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $5 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—The market is steady and unchanged. No 1 sells in car lots at $1 00 per barrel. We quote jobbing prices as: $1 15 ₱ bbl for No. 1; $1 25 for extra do; $1 40 for dairy. Liverpool salt repacked in large sacks of 220 lbs, $2 00@2 10 per sack; dairy salt in small sacks $3 25@3 50 ₱ bbl.

IRON MARKETS.

Weekly Review of the Pig Iron and Bloom Market.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, January 13, 1877.

As will be seen below, the sales of pig iron this week are considerably more in amount than they were last week, and prices about the same. We hear of sales being made also of various lots amounting in the aggregate to several thousand tons, which were stopped by the coal miners' strike, and it is understood that some of the lots reported below were sold before it was known that the miners are going to strike. Should the mills start up it is expected that there will be more inquiry for pig iron, but it is not sure that the price can be advanced from present figures. We are reported the following sales:

BITUMINOUS COAL AND COKE SMELTED FROM LAKE SUPERIOR ORE.

1,000 tons grey neutral	Private terms.
300 tons grey forge	$23 00—4 mos
200 tons grey forge R. S	22 00—4 mos
150 tons C grey and mottled	21 00—4 mos
150 tons mottled forge	20 00—4 mos
100 tons grey forge	20 00—4 mos
100 tons grey forge	21 00—4 mos

ALLEGHENY COKE.

250 tons grey forge	$22 00—time

CONNELLSVILLE COKE.

100 tons foundry	$23 50—4 mos
20 tons silvery	25 50—4 mos

CHARCOAL.

170 tons Nos. 1, 2 and 3, H. R.	Private terms

NEW YORK.

JANUARY 11.—AMERICAN PIG.—We hear in some quarters of an improved demand and a better feeling, while others consider the outlook worse than ever. Meantime, it is certain that prices are without change, and are fully as firm as they have been. The number of furnaces in blast continues as before, and as the market price seems to offer but little inducement to increase the production, it is not likely that many more furnaces will be put in blast. We continue our quotations as follows: Foundry, No. 1, $21 00; foundry, No. 2, $19 50@ 20 00; grey forge $19 00@20 00.

Scotch Pig.—Scotch iron is selling in a retail way. During a week back the arrivals have been about 200 tons, of which part has been put in yard or want of a customer. We note the sale of 75 tons Glengarnock at 42s 75c 50 tons Carnbroe, at $36 00, and 30 tons Eglinton at $25 50 We quote: Glengarnock, $37 00@ 00; Eglinton, $25 50@26 00, and Carnbroe, $24 00@25 50.

Rails.—There continues to be considerable inquiry for both iron and steel rails. We note the sale of 1,000 tons iron, to be delivered at Stonington on private terms; also 1,500 tons 40 lb steel delivered at Ashtabula, O. We quote steel at $56 00, and iron at $35 50@37 00.

Old Rails.—The market continues without change. We quote at $27 00.

Scrap.—There have been sales estimated to amount to 1,000 tons on private terms. We quote $25 50@26 50 as the market price.—*Iron Age.*

BRITISH IRON MARKET.

Scotch Pig.—Since last report the market has been depressed, but a better feeling is now prevalent and prices are steady. The following are makers' quotations:

Coltness No. 1	69
Glengarnock No. 1	64
Eglinton No. 1	60@ 61

Manufactured Iron and Rails—Remain as last week.—*Iron Age, January 10th.*

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Central Stock Yards, East Liberty.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, January 12, 1877.

CATTLE.

Good 1,350 to 1,400 ₱ cattle are held at yesterday's prices, whilst common grades are shaded, one car load has been sold to-day at a lower figure than was offered for them yesterday. How about "luck in leisure?" The outlook for next week is fair. Most of the offerings have been disposed of, and Eastern buyers have nearly all gone to their respective homes. We quote as follows:

Extra, 1,400 to 1,600 ₱ s	$5 75@6 00
Prime, 1,200 to 1,400 ₱ s	5 00@5 50
Good, 1,100 to 1,200 ₱ s	4 50@4 75
Fair, 1,000 to 1,100 ₱ s	4 25@4 75
Common, 900 to 1,000 ₱ s	3 75@4 25
Bulls, stags and cows	3 00@4 25
Stockers	3 00@3 50
Texans, 800 to 1,200 ₱ s	3 00@3 50

HOGS.

Philadelphia tops and good 200 ₱ Yorkers were in fair demand at yesterday's quotations, while common light pigs were dull sale, even at the low figures given below. All the offerings would not be disposed of, yet better prices are looked for next week. We quote:

Philadelphias	$7 00@7 25
Good Yorkers	6 90@6 95
Common Yorkers	6 80@6 85
Roughs	4 50@5 50

SHEEP.

There were no best grades on sale, nothing was doing in the line of mutton. We give yesterday's quotations:

Extra, 110 to 130 ₱ s	$5 75@6 25
Extra, 95 to 100 ₱ s	5 00@5 25
Prime, 85 to 90 ₱ s	4 50@4 75
Good, 80 to 85 ₱ s	3 75@4 00
Common, 75 to 80 ₱ s	3 00@3 50
Lambs	3 00@5 00

THE TRIPLETS—The famous triplet heifers, which were on exhibition at the Centennial, were brought back to the Central Stock Yards a few days since. They are in perfect health and are as lefty as ever, their combined weights being over 4,000 pounds. They are, we believe, the property of Messrs. William Holmes, J. F. Sadler and Jerry Gilfehan. What disposition has been or will be made of the triplets we are not informed.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, January 12.—Beeves—Receipts 760 head, making 3,576 head for four days, against 6,000 head for the same time last week. Prices about the same as yesterday, with rather slow trade; extra prime, 12½@12¾c; ordinary to prime, 11@12c; poor to fair, 10@10½c; extra $11 25@11 75; ordinary to good $9 50@11 00; inferior and common steers $6 75@9 25; ordinary to good fat bulls $3 75@4 50; about 400 cars head back.

Sheep—Receipts 3,330 head, making 10,180 head for four days, against 11,330 head for the same time last week. Market quiet and about steady; common to extra sheep $4 75@7 00, the latter for 2 car loads fat Ohio sheep, 115 lbs.

Swine—Receipts 2,480 head, making 11,050 head for four days, against 9,550 head for the same time last week. Demand fair; 5 carloads sold alive at $6 62½@6 90.

CINCINNATI, January 12.—Hogs quiet, the lcy condition of thoroughfares preventing trading; a few sales of good light to medium packing at $6 00@6 40. Quality of offering generally inferior.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 12.—Hogs firm at $6 00@6 40. Receipts 2,300 head. Shipments 100 head.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Produce.

CHICAGO, January 12.—Flour—Demand fair and market firm; Minnesota extras $6 00@7 50; do patents $7 25@9 50; winter extras $6 00@8 00. Wheat active, firm and higher; No. 2 Chicago spring $1 27¾ cash; sales at $1 28½@1 28¾ February; closed at $1 28¾ February; $1 23¾ March; No. 3 $1 14; rejected 95c. Corn unsettled and generally lower; 43¾c cash; 44c February; 41¾c March; rejected 38c. Rye firm. Barley dull and lower at 64@67c. Pork unsettled and lower; $17 25 cash; $17 45@17 50 February; $17 75@17 80 March; sales at 17 62½@18 30 March. Lard dull; 10.5c@10 60c cash; $10 40@10 47½c February; 11¼@ 11.27½c March. Bulkmeats dull; shoulders 6½c; short ribs 8¾c; short clear 9c. Dressed hogs dull; light $7 25@7 30; heavy $7 55@7 60. Whisky quiet but steady at $1 07.

NEW YORK, January 12.—Flour in limited demand and unchanged; receipts 9,000 barrels. Rye flour steady at $4 50@5 20. Cornmeal dull. Wheat steady and nominally unchanged. Rye, barley and malt firm. Corn quiet; receipts 44,000 bushels; mixed, new, no grade, 56@56½c; do, new, on steamer, 58½@59c. Oats fairly active; receipts 19,000 bushels; Western mixed and State 44@52c. Hay firm. Hops unchanged. Coffee quiet; Rio cargoes 19@22½c, gold. Sugar firm; fair to good refining 8½@9½c; prime 9½c. Molasses quiet; New Orleans 45@ 60c. Rice in moderate demand. Rosin quiet at $1 42½@2 35. Turpentine firmer at 46¼@46½. Eggs—Western 33@38c. Pork dull and heavy at $18 00. Beef quiet. Middles quiet; long clear Western, spot, city 9½c. Lard—Prime steam 11.55@11.45c. Butter quiet; Western 14@28c. Cheese firm at 7@14c. Whisky quiet at $1 15.

CINCINNATI, January 12.—Cotton quiet at 10¾c. Flour quiet but firm. Wheat in good demand; red $1 26@1 30. Corn firm at 41@42c. Oats firmer at 36@38c. Rye quiet at Sic. Barley dull and nominal. Pork dull at $17 25. Lard dull and lower; steam tic; kettle 11¾@12c. Bulkmeats quiet; shoulders 6¾@6¾c. Bacon—Shoulders 8½c; clear 9c. Hams nominal. Whisky easier; shoulders 6¾@6¾c; short rib 8½c; hams 9½@10½c; heavy to light. Whisky quiet but steady at $1 05. Butter quiet and unchanged.

PHILADELPHIA, January 12.—Cloverseed steady at 14¼@15c ₱ ₱. Flour firm; Minnesota family $6 75@7 40. Wheat dull; Western red 91@92c; amber 94@96c; No. 1 white 95@97c. Rye 78c. Corn steady; white and yellow 56@ 56½c. Oats firm; Western mixed 39@43c; mixed Western, new, 40@42c; white 44@46c. Provisions firmer and quiet. Lard firmer; tierces 11½c. Butter firm; Western creamery 30@32c; Pennsylvania do 28@30c. Cheese firm at 13¾@14c. Eggs—Western 37@38c.

BALTIMORE, January 12.—Flour active and buoyant; Western superfine $4 5@5 50; extra do $5 60@6 50. Wheat scarce and firmer; Maryland red $1 55@1 57. Corn firmer; Western mixed, new, 58½@59c; old 62½@63c; Maryland mixed 58½c. Rye quiet at 70@73c. Cloverseed dull and nominal. Butter quiet but steady; Western 24@26c. Eggs quiet; No. 1 cases 19@ 22½c; jobbing at 19½@23½c. Whisky $1 13.

NEW ORLEANS, January 12.—Flour active and buoyant; Western superfine $4 5@5 50; extra do $5 60@6 50. Wheat scarce and firmer; Maryland red $1 55@1 57. Corn firmer; Western mixed, new, 58½@59c; old 62½@63c; Maryland mixed 58½c. Rye quiet at 70@73c. Cloverseed dull and nominal. Butter quiet but steady; Western 24@26c. Eggs quiet; No. 1 cases 19@

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 12, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Ther.	Hum.	Dir.	Vel.	Weather
7 A. M.	29 31	28	88	N.	6	Cloudy
2 P. M.	31 04	31	80	N. W.	3	Lt. rain
9 P. M.	29 92	34	90	N. W.	4	Lt. rain

Mean barometer.....29.029 Highest thermom... 38
Mean thermom.....31.7 Lowest thermom.... 27
Rainfall.....0.02

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, January 12, 1877, 10:45 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 24; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Cincinnati—Ther. 29; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Davenport, Ia.—Ther. 1; wind N. W.; fair.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 7; wind S.; clear.
Indianapolis—Ther. 18; wind N. W.; threat'g.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 4; wind N. W.; fair.
Leavenworth, Kan.—Ther. 1; wind N. W.; clear.
Louisville—Ther. 32; wind W.; cloudy.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 36; wind N. W.; lt. rain.
Nashville—Ther. 46; wind N. W.; light rain.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 1; cloudy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 34; wind W.; light rain.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 34; wind N. E.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 21; wind N. W.; clear.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 51; clear.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 49; wind N.; clear.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 41; wind S. E.; clear.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 36; wind N. W.; cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 34; wind N.; cloudy.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 56; wind S. E.; cloudy.
Virginia City—Ther. 32; clear.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 13; wind N.; cloudy.

The Best Thing

To do with a cold or bad cough, is to get rid of it, for which purpose use at once Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, for nearly half a century a popular Lung remedy. MWS&F

Pittsburgh Teachers' Institute.

The thirteenth stated meeting of the Pittsburgh Teachers' Institute will be held on Friday evening, January 19, in the High School chapel, and on Saturday, January 20th at 9:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. in the Ralston School hall. Teachers are requested to extend a cordial invitation to citizens.

The Late Railroad Fatalities.

Coroner Thomas held inquests last evening in the cases of John Hamnett and George Fredericks, both of whom were killed on the Pennsylvania Railroad, a few miles east of the city. The jury in each case rendered a verdict of accidental death. The particulars of these fatalities were published in recent issues of the COMMERCIAL.

Republican Executive Committee.

A meeting of the Republican Executive Committee is called for Tuesday, 16th inst., at half-past seven P. M. at the rooms of the County Committee, corner of Smithfield street and Fifth avenue, to make arrangements for the convention to nominate candidates for Mayor, Treasurer and Controller.

The Charter Commission.

Fred. M. Magee and Wm. B. Rodgers, members of the State Commission on Municipal Charters, returned to the city yesterday. Together with Mr. Oscar Jackson, of New Castle, they constitute a sub committee of two to examine into the workings of the city governments within their districts. The testimony of the Commission is evidently to make the Mayor the responsible executive officer of the city, and to give him the power of appointing all heads of departments except the Controller and possibly the City Treasurer. The Commission is also favorable to attaching a property qualification to members of Select Council. The next meeting will take place on the 24th inst.

A Pittsburgh Millionaire.

A gentleman of this city is just home from Baltimore, where he has been engaged for some days past in making inquiries relative to an immense estate in that city that is shortly to come into the courts. The one in question is known as the "Chiffonate estate," and the Pittsburgher is one of the heirs to it. The estate comprises about eighty-nine acres of land in the most prominent business portion of the city of Baltimore. This great estate is held by a lease for ninety-nine years, and this term has nearly expired. The property has grown from comparatively little worth to the enormous value of eighty, and possibly one hundred millions of dollars.

Boarding House Larceny.

Thursday afternoon a young man giving his name as W. H. Harrison, and occupation as a baggage master on the Connellsville Railroad, called at Mrs. Bauman's boarding house, on Second avenue, and engaged boarding. He was assigned a room with two other young men and that night he retired to bed in early hour. Next morning he failed to appear at the breakfast table, but about ten o'clock he arose and left the house and has not since been heard of by the landlady nor his room mates, one of the latter of whom, Mr. C. W. Spear, is particularly solicitous as to his whereabouts, inasmuch as, by a strange mistake, Mr. Harrison carried away Mr. Spear's Sunday coat.

Sundry Matters.

All the American and foreign quarterly reviews, all the foreign and domestic magazines of literature and fashion, all the illustrated journals, all the story, theatrical and sporting papers, are to be found on the broad counters of Gildenfenney & Co., No. 75 Fifth avenue. Their stock of paper-covered works of fiction is made complete by the addition of new books of this class as fast as issued. They have on hand a large and well selected assortment of more substantially bound books. All the back numbers of that marvel of cheapness, the Lakeside Library, can be had from them. Their stock of stationery is complete, and fine laid and wove papers and envelopes are sold at about the same price as ordinary kinds. Their line of albums and photographs is full. Notions without end can be had there. Go and see.

The Miners' Bill.

The bill introduced into the State Senate by Hon. H. McNeill for the regulation of mining bituminous coal was drawn up by Assemblyman Captain Joseph A. Stone. Among others there is a provision in the bill for the proper drainage of mines, and for proper precautions in regard to fire damp, in respect to the water, light, etc. Also a provision requiring the shaft's machinery to be kept in proper order. There is a provision for a board of examiners to be appointed, which board will recommend a list of gentlemen from which the Governor is to select three men and to appoint them inspectors, whose duty it will be to see that the provisions of the law shall be carried out in every respect. A penalty is fixed for failure to comply with any order of the inspectors, who are to be vested with authority to see that the law is observed. The salary of the inspectors and board of examiners is to be paid by the State, but of course the miners will by taxed proportionately to meet this expense, which is the same thing as paying the salaries themselves. A bushel of coal is fixed at seventy-six pounds, and a penalty to be enforced for giving more or less than that.

A. O. U. W. Reunion.

The fourth grand reunion ball and banquet in honor of the Grand Lodge of the A. O. U. W. of Pennsylvania came off at Lafayette Hall, in this city, on last Thursday evening. The Grand Lodge officers and the representatives of the various lodges of the order assembled at Schiller Hall and proceeded to Lafayette Hall, arriving there promptly at nine o'clock and participated in the Grand March. A large number of the members of the order and friends were in attendance. Dancing occupied the time till 11:30 o'clock, when supper was announced. Mr. C. P. Bailey, the well known proprietor of the St. Clair Hotel, of this city, will be remembered by all who partook of the bountiful and elegant feast that he had prepared. The supper-room was handsomely decorated, and the tables were spread in a manner which well merited the encomiums bestowed. After supper speeches were made by P. G. M. W. J. H. Denbo, G. Recorder A. M. McClair and others. G. M. W. E. Harvey and Representative C. M. Bousch each sung a song. Dancing was then resumed and kept up until five o'clock yesterday morning. The re-union was marked for the social feeling that prevailed.

Vice President-Elect Wheeler.

Hon. William A. Wheeler, Vice President-elect, arrived in this city shortly before midnight of Thursday, and departed for New York by the Pacific express yesterday morning. While waiting for his train he had an interview of some length with Hon. Robert McKnight, of this city, with whom he had served four years in Congress. Mr. McKnight states that the Vice Presidents' visit to Ohio was probably for the purpose of making the acquaintance of Governor Hayes more than anything else. He (Mr. W.) was very favorably impressed with Hayes and thought he was a man of nerve. Mr. Wheeler also said that he had been courteously received on all hands by Democrats as well as Republicans. The motion for the adjournment of the Ohio Legislature in order to afford an opportunity for members to be introduced to him was made by a Democrat. He thought the better class of Democrats took no stock in the 8th of January meetings, and that many of them were disposed to ridicule those assemblages. Mr. McKnight said that Mr. Wheeler felt perfectly easy, predicted a peaceable termination of the electoral dispute, and was confident that all would come right, and that from what he could learn Hayes was in the same mood. Further than this Mr. McKnight had nothing to say except that Mr. Wheeler gave no expression of his views about the Southern situation, the prospective Cabinet or other matters of interest.

A LADY in our neighborhood who had suffered for over three months the most extreme torture by a violent cough, has become completely cured by Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. For sale in every drug store.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

The Reform Club House an Assured Success—Rousing Meeting at the "Old Home" Last Night—Other Meetings.

The project of establishing a Reform Club house, after the style of the European "Holly Tree Inns," has at length taken definite shape, no less than $3,000 having been subscribed for that purpose at the adjourned meeting of citizens friendly to the Murphy movement, held in the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon. Some of our leading men were there, including Hon. J. K. Moorhead, Wm. Thaw, Esq., Major Wm. Frew, Dr. C. G. Hussey, Esq., Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Jas. Park, Jr., Esq., Chancellor Woods, Joseph Dilworth, Esq., R. S. Waring, Esq., Rev. Drs. Scovel and Pearson and others. Hon. J. K. Moorhead was called to the chair, and R. S. Waring, Esq., continued as Secretary. After prayer by Rev. Dr. Pearson, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Francis Murphy, the temperance revivalist, in response to general request, addressed the meeting. He remarked that he had come to lay the foundation stone of a total abstinence light house. The work was not being done for Pittsburgh alone, but this was made the great battle field. The speaker has ever had implicit confidence in the good sense of the people. Temperance was an individual work. Make it easy for the individual to do right and it will be difficult to do wrong. Give us a total abstinence house in this city, and the temperance work will be permanent. Make it attractive. What more impressive to the reformed drunkard then to be taken into a handsomely furnished room, surrounded with pictures, books and the like, and have an opportunity of securing a first-class lunch or meal at a little over cost, without the temptation of alcohol. Give a man to feel that he is not a slave, and he will be a man. This, in brief, is the design of those who propose establishing a Reform Club House.

After encouraging addresses by a number of gentlemen, Chancellor Woods, on behalf of the committee appointed at the previous meeting to secure suitable club rooms in a central location, reported that he had been called upon by Mr. Park to make the report of the committee appointed to secure a room. The Young Men's Union had ever felt the want of such room. Now the want was greater than ever. Since the commencement of the temperance revival many auxiliary branches of the Union had been formed, and they were establishing their own rooms, but there exists a want for a central place which could be used for meetings of the general association. A place was needed where, according to the principles of the Association, if a brother fell, he could be taken and nursed until he was on his feet again. The Union was now extending aid perhaps to the extent of $200 per week, for the families of reclaimed men. It was also their desire to establish places where a good meal or lunch could be had at a low price.

The committee had been looking around for a suitable room, and that in McClain's building, on Fifth avenue, was the most suitable they could find. It is centrally located, is 30x70 feet, and the rent $100. Many of the reclaimed men will gladly contribute to the support of such institutions. One of these men had come to Dr. Wood to offer $15 a year. His wages were $1 35 per day. The eating room, the Chancellor said, would be placed under the charge of some Christian men who should have the profit or meet the loss. The price, however, and the general control of the establishment should be under the charge of the Young Men's Union.

Some discussion was had in regard to the location of the room. It was suggested that a ground floor should be secured, and the Tivoli Garden, the White House, the Lincoln Club rooms and other places were mentioned. The committee was finally increased by the addition of Major William Frew, G. L. Bentshoe and Joseph Dilworth, and was instructed to make a further investigation for a more suitable room and was also given power to act.

Major Frew remarked that there was need of some plan for the control of the institution after established. In reply to this, Chancellor Wood read a paper which provided for the appointment, by the donors, of a committee of two to act in conjunction with the Treasurer and also with the Executive Committee of the Young Men's Temperance Union in the disbursement of funds and in the control of the institution.

A lengthy discussion followed, during which several valuable suggestions were made by Mr. Wm. Thaw. These were incorporated into the plan for the government of the institution which is practically as follows: There shall be an Executive Committee of fifteen gentlemen, consisting of General J. K. Moorhead, Major Wm. Frew, Dr. C. G. Hussey, Wm. Thaw, Esq. and James Park, Jr., who shall select their eight other associates. This body shall solicit funds, disburse the funds, and have charge of the club rooms in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Young Men's Temperance Union.

Mr. Josiah Copley, who had been elected Treasurer at the last meeting, resigned and Mr. J. B. Scott was elected in his place.

A communication was received from the Stephen C. Foster Serenaders offering to give an entertainment for the benefit of the institution. The offer was accepted with thanks. The details will be arranged in the future.

Mr. Park suggested that those gentlemen present interested in the movement should subscribe now, and save the Executive Committee further solicitation.

At the suggestion of Mr. Waring, Colonel Reaif addressed the meeting, and at the close of his remarks the following subscriptions were made: Joseph Dilworth, $500; James Park, Jr., $500; Major Wm. Frew, $500; Wm. Thaw, $500; Hon. J. K. Moorhead, $100; Hon. Felix R. Brunot, $100, which with others promised by gentlemen who had retired from the meeting during the proceedings, will foot up a total of $3,000.

The meeting then adjourned *sine die*, leaving the entire control of the project in the hands of the committee of thirteen.

MEETING AT THE "OLD HOME."

Notwithstanding the bad condition of the streets last evening the usual large attendance was manifest at the Fifth avenue M. P. church.

The exercises did not differ materially from those of the other meetings that have been held nightly in this church for the past six weeks.

In the absence of Mr. Murphy, Joseph R Hunter presided over the meeting. Rev. Bolton conducted the devotional exercises.

Mr. William Gillespie thought a word of experience would do more good than a theoretical speech-making. He was not in the habit of drinking, and was proud to say that he had been saved from this evil.

Mr. William C. Connolly said that after an experience of twenty-five years' use of intoxicating liquors he was glad to say that he was a free man to-night. Business, prosperity and friends had forsaken him because of his habits, but he thanked God for the blessing of a faithful and devoted wife, who was instrumental in his reformation. He had given his hand to the lower, and by the grace of God he would never turn back.

Robert McGonigle related some interesting incidents that came under his observation as Secretary of the Allegheny Poor Board.

Mr. Monroe, of Chicago, Ill., had signed the pledge twenty different times in his life and had broken it every time. He now belonged to the army of the Lord; had the grace of God in heart, and felt no fear of falling again. He became converted under the preaching of Mr. Moody and since that that time has had no taste for intoxicating liquors.

Rev. J. S. Murray said if he could do anything to help the cause he would gladly do so at anytime. He made an eloquent appeal to those who have signed the pledge to give their hearts to God. He did not want to obtrude himself on any man in regard to his religious convictions but his wish was that all might seek their salvation.

Mr. Brawley had been a hard drinker, signed the pledge and joined the church. He asked the prayers of all Christian people that he might prove faithful.

A number of other persons addressed the meeting, after which the invitation was given to those who wished to sign the pledge and a large number of signatures was obtained.

The meeting at Library Hall on Sunday evening will be addressed by Francis Murphy, M. Swartzwelder, Esq., Colonel Richard Reaif, Joseph R. Hunter and others.

The noonday meeting to-day will be held in the Smithfield street M. E. church and the meeting in the evening will be held in in the Third Presbyterian church, Sixth avenue.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

The meeting at the South Side M. P. Church last evening was conducted by R. C. Craft, and was one of the best meetings ever held on that side. Mr. Craft opened the meeting with reading the Scriptures, and the pastor, Rev. G. G. Westfall, led in prayer. An earnest address was made by Mr. Craft, which was followed by Rev. G. G. Westfall, who made a telling effect on all present.

Robert Getty, John McKee, J. K. Crayton, Isaac Bennett and Pat. O'Connor made brief speeches.

At the close of the meeting the pastor gave an opportunity for persons to join the the church, and four young men and one young lady connected themselves with the church. One hundred signed the pledge, making a total of about five hundred from this place.

AT WILKINSBURG.

A temperance meeting was held in the Presbyterian church, Wilkinsburg, last night. Owing to the inclement weather the church was not crowded. The meeting was conducted by E. H. Dunbar, who read the parables of the "Bridegroom and the Talents." Prayer by Rev. Mr. Henderson. Addresses were made by Messrs. E. H. Dunbar, J. H. Allfree, Samuel Dougherty, Thomas Steele, Frank Parkinson, James Hubley, Mr. Shaw, William Hubley, Frank Wade, J. J. Walker and others. Seventy-six signers were obtained, making two hundred and sixty-eight to answer to roll call on parade day. A meeting to form a permanent organization will be held in the Methodist church, on next Thursday night.

A temperance meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church of Millvale, Rev. James M. Shields, pastor, Saturday evening, January 13th, at seven o'clock. The meeting will be addressed by Wm. Hamilton and other members of Mr. Murphy's band. All are invited.

A YOUNG WIFE'S TROUBLE.

Deserted After Four Weeks of Married Life—A Hint of Conspiracy.

A peculiarly aggravated case of wife desertion was heard before Alderman McMasters last evening. It was that of the Commonwealth against George M. Clay charged with the offense mentioned on oath of his wife, Mrs. Alice Clay. It appeared from the testimony of the young wife, who is not more than eighteen, that she and the defendant were married about four weeks ago; that they took a room a Mrs. Packe's boarding house, on Eighth street, and that after living together until last Wednesday the defendant paid the landlady in full up to Thursday morning, saying he intended to leave his wife and would not pay any debts of her contracting after that time.

The defendant's attorney commenced his cross-examination of the witness by asking her if her husband, on the evening before he left her, entered her room and found another man there.

Wm. Reardon, Esq., who appeared for the prosecutrix, said that while the question was altogether improper, he was willing, if the defense desired to bring out the matter of the man in the room, to give them full swing, and before the hearing was concluded he would bring to light one of the most villainous conspiracies that he ever met with.

Thereupon the defendant's counsel pressed his question, when Mrs. Clay answered that a few minutes before her husband came to the room a particular friend of his, named Robert Long, came in and attempted to take improper liberties with her; that she resisted him with all the strength she possessed; that when Long had nearly overpowered her Mr. Clay came in. Long then took his hat and walked out of the room unmolested by Clay, who remarked to his wife that he had now good ground for a divorce and that he intended to leave her then and there, which he did.

Young Mr. Packer testified that on the evening of the occurrence referred to in the testimony of Mrs. Clay, Long came to the house a few minutes before six o'clock, and after sitting in the parlor till about six he went up stairs. About ten minutes afterward Clay came in, and after looking in the parlor he also went up stairs. Long, while in the parlor, looked at his watch two or three times.

Mr. Sullivan, a news-agent on the Allegheny Valley Railroad, testified that on the day after the trouble at the boarding house Long went up the road on his train. Witness said to him, 'That was a pretty trick you played on that poor girl.' Long replied that he and Clay were fast friends, and that he wanted to help him out of his forced marriage, by giving him ground for a divorce.

The defendant was held in the sum of $1,000 to appear at court. Mr. Long is wanted at the 'Squire's office on a grave charge.

HEALTH OF THE CITY.

Regular Meetings—Contagious Diseases—Annual Appropriations.

The regular weekly meeting of the Health Board was held yesterday afternoon, Hon. Jared M. Brush in the chair.

Dr. Snively, City Physician, reported that the total number of deaths in the city for the four weeks ending December 31st, was 202. There were thirty-four deaths of infants under one year and twenty-eight of children between the ages of one and five years. There was a marked increase in the prevalence of smallpox over the preceding month, and a slight decrease of scarlet fever and diphtheria. The statement is:

Cases reported.	Deaths.
Smallpox.....63	9
Scarlet fever.....22	5
Typhoid fever.....18	4
Diphtheria.....12	4

Comparative mortality:

December, 1873, four weeks.....	220
December, 1874, four weeks five days.....	253
December, 1875, four weeks six days.....	219
December, 1876, four weeks six days.....	202

Dr. Asdale submitted a resolution providing that no smallpox placard shall be removed from any residence without by special permission of the Board of Health, until thirty days after the discharge of the patient from treatment, whether by death or removal. The resolution also instructs the Solicitor for an opinion as to whether the board has the power to make such a law.

Dr. Asdale also submitted a draft of an ordinance providing for a Board of Estimate, similar to that for the Fire Commission, to pass upon the appropriation annually needed for the Health Department, consisting of the Mayor, Controller, Presidents of Councils, Chairman of the Finance Committee of Councils and the Finance Committee of the Board of Health shall form the Board of Estimate, which is to make its calculation in the month of January. This was also referred to the Solicitor for an opinion whether Councils could pass such an ordinance or whether the State Legislature must pass upon it. Adjourned.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

THE "Week of Prayer" is observed by all our churches in this city and vicinity with an encouraging attendance.

TO-MORROW afternoon at four o'clock a Bible reading will be given at the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Subject, "Christian Work."

REV. SAMUEL P. HERRON, of Menlo Park, California, will preach in the Third Presbyterian church, to-morrow morning and evening.

T. J. GILLESPIE, Esq., will conduct the Sunday school teachers' noon meeting to-day at the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Subject, "The Sin of Jeroboam."

THERE will be a special meeting of the Catholic Clerical Relief Association on Wednesday, the 17th inst., at three o'clock, P. M., in the Bishop's House, Pittsburgh.

REV. J. S. WRIGHTSON, of the Penn avenue Baptist Church, will preach next sunday on "The Future Prospects of the Present Temperance Movement."

THE *Catholic Journal* has suspended publication indefinitely. The necessary stringency. It had a good circulation, was well edited and bade fair to become a power in that denomination.

AT the services to-morrow morning and evening in the Second Presbyterian church corner of Penn avenue and Seventh street, Rev. Samuel Carlile of New York city will officiate.

YOUNG MEN'S meeting this evening at 7:40 o'clock at the Young Men's Christian Association rooms. H. K. Porter, Esq., will conduct the services to-morrow morning at the School street chapel, Allegheny city.

TO-MORROW is the day appointed for the collection in the Sunday schools for the aid of the children of P. P. Bliss. H. K. Porter, Esq., No. 5 Smithfield street, has been appointed Treasurer of the fund for this community.

THE general subject of the Evangelical prayer meetings, this evening, will be "Prayer for Christian missions to the Jews and Gentiles—Luke, xxiv., 27; for Sunday Schools; and for the conversion of the world to Christ."

THIS evening the subject for consideration during the "Week of Prayer" will be "Temperance," and Mr. Francis Murphy, the great "Reformer," will take part in the service at the Third Presbyterian church, Sixth avenue. All are invited.

A TEMPERANCE meeting will be held in the Alliance rooms, corner of Penn avenue and Sixth street, to-morrow (Sunday) evening, beginning at 7½ o'clock. Mr. Early, Mr. Frew and a number of others, Murphy's converts, will address the meeting.

At the Thirty-seventh Street Baptist Church, Rev. Thomas H. Chapman, pastor, the regular services will be held at 10½ A. M. and seven P. M. Subject in the morning, "Our Lord's Request to Every Member and Friend of the Thirty-seventh Street Baptist Church." Subject in the evening, "God's Free Library and Reading Room for Humans."

REV. R. W. PEARSON, D.D., will deliver to-morrow the first of a course on "The Lights of the World; Morning Hours with Baptist Worthies," taking as his first subject "Joanna Bunyan, an illustrating genius and grit." At night, at 7:30, there will be a Gospel temperance service. Dr. Pearson will speak on "Pittsburgh's Present Battle with the Bottle," and others will follow. Before the addresses the ordinance of Believer's Baptism will be administered.

THE committee appointed by the Ministerial Association of Pittsburgh met January 12th, in the lecture room of the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that the present state of the temperance movement and the religious feeling in this city call for a union meeting for inquiry and conference to be held for the present at three o'clock P. M. each day in the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church. It is requested that this announcement be made from every pulpit in the city on Sabbath, 14th inst.

Speaking of Francis Murphy, the leader of the great temperance revival now progressing in our midst, the Presbyterian *Banner* says: Wherein does his great strength lie? is the question which comes home to the minds of all who attentively observe his labors and their results. He is only a fair English scholar. His natural powers of intellect are not beyond those of ordinary men. He is not an orator, and he does not lecture, yet he speaks with thrilling and convincing power, because what he says is manifestly the outpouring of an earnest, honest, loving heart. This everybody feels, even the most callous and suspicious. His strength is in the faith which works by love—faith in God and faith in man. Men trust him and love him because he trusts and loves them.

Condition of the Ice.

There was no movement of the ice yesterday, and owing to the cold snap the river-men are not so apprehensive of a sudden thaw. Most of the rain, which has fallen within the past forty-eighth hours appears to have been absorbed by the snow, while little has run into the rivers. A slight rise is reported from Brownsville; none from Oil City. It will take eight or nine feet of water here to move the ice in the Monongahela, and the weather must grow much warmer than at present to produce this stage. The Lioness and B. D. Wood are at work endeavoring to carry out the suggestions contained in yesterday's COMMERCIAL, *i. e.*, to make an immediate attempt to disgorge the ice from Brunot's to Herr's Island.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge Ketcham.

In the United States District Court yesterday, in chambers, the following business was transacted:

In the matter of Powell, Gregg & Co., bankrupts, on petition of Chess, Smythe & Co., an order was made directing Register Shafer to ascertain and report upon the validity of certain alleged liens.

In the matter of Samuel Elias, bankrupt, Williamsport, an order was made allowing Zadock Uhiman, a creditor, to amend his proof of claim, and staying the distribution of the assets in the meantime.

In the matter of H. J. Adams, bankrupt, Pittsburgh, an order was made for a meeting of creditors, to act upon a proposition for composition.

Thomas S. Underhill, of Williamsport, was adjudged a bankrupt on creditors' petition, and a petition for an injunction to restrain purchasers of his stock in trade from disposing of the same, was refused.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Collier.

The case of the Singer Manufacturing Company vs. Straw & Sautell is still on trial.

John McClaren vs. Elizabeth Kerr, executor of James Kerr, deceased. Judgment of non suit entered.

A compulsory non suit was taken in the case of Henry Berger vs. Arthur Gainsford, which was an action for goods sold and delivered.

Weil & Co., now for use of Johnston Rohes vs. the Howard Insurance Company, of New York, garnishee of Daniel and Patrick McBride. Jury discharged as to the Howard Company, a verdict for the defendant as to the Republic.

Voluntary assignment of Baldinger & Klein; W. D. Porter, Esq., appointed auditor to pass upon exceptions and make distribution.

1. C. Waugaman vs. Dr. C. Blyholder; action on a note. On trial.

In the case of Elmira Bricker vs the city of Pittsburgh, a motion was made for a new trial *ex parte* defendant.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Ewing and White.

The case of Ann Hart vs John Rupert, same vs. Peter Young and same vs. Herman Miersch, previously reported, are still on trial.

Rogers, Creban & Appel vs. The Allegheny Valley Railroad Company; an action for work and labor done in clearing off the track of defendant company from a slip. On trial.

Motions for new trials were made in the several cases of Harriet Ann Tarr *et al.* vs. John McCloskey, the Tigress explosion cases.

Criminal Court—Judge Stowe.

Frank Gallinger, indicted for larceny from the person and receiving stolen goods, on oath of H. G. Miller, was convicted on the second count.

J. B. Miller, indicted for aggravated assault and battery, charged by David K. Calhoun, pleaded guilty to simple assault and battery.

M. J. Greatrake was acquitted on a charge of forgery preferred by —— O'Brien.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Milton Barnett, indicted for perjury, on oath of J. F. Haines.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Lorenzo C. Chambers, indicted for larceny and horse stealing.

The jury is out in the case of William Hickey, indicted for larceny.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of David Allen, indicted for assault and battery on oath of Alice Raymond.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Nathan Rothchilds, indicted for false pretense, on oath of Wm. Florence.

Frank Gallager, pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny of James Quinn, James Sullivan and Edward O'Neil, were acquitted. Michael Velock was the prosecutor.

The jury is out in the case of H. A. Gibson, indicted for assault and battery.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Joseph Cuneo, indicted for aggravated assault and battery.

The jury is out in the case of John Jackson, indicted for aggravated assault and battery. George A. Leitz was the prosecutor. The defendant is a shoemaker on Thirty-third street, and a quarrel arose with him in his shop concerning the price of a pair of boots, in which Jackson, it was charged, stabbed Leitz in the side and arm with a shoe knife.

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The jury acquitted Wm. Hickey, indicted for larceny.

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A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Nathan Rothchilds, indicted for false pretense, on oath of William Florence.

Frank Gallagher, pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny, and Jane Quinn, James Sullivan and Edward O'Neil, were acquitted. Michael Velock was the prosecutor.

The jury is out in the case of H. A. Gibson, indicted for assault and battery.

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of Joseph Cuneo, indicted for aggravated assault and battery.

The jury convicted John Jackson, indicted for aggravated assault and battery. George A. Deitz was the prosecutor. The defendant is a shoemaker on Thirty-third street, and a quarrel arose with him in his shop concerning the price of a pair of boots, in which Jackson, it was charged, stabbed Deitz in the side and arm with a shoe knife.

Legal Notes.

The will of Robert Fleming, of West Deer township, was probated in the Register's office yesterday. It is dated December 23, 1876, and the executrix is Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming.

The will of Christian Knoderer, of Ohio township, was also probated yesterday. It is dated March 9, 1871, and the executors are Samuel Sarver and David McKee.

There are one hundred and twenty districts in the county, each of which has one assessor, who has two assistants, making three hundred and sixty principal and assistant assessors. The books are given to them by the Commissioners, generally in the early part of November, and they are required to return them by the 1st of January. About one half of the books are still out, and it very frequently happens that they are not all returned until February or perhaps the 1st of March. It always has been difficult on the part of the county, to hold the assessors and their assistants down to reasonable pay for their services, it invariably being the fact in a large proportion of the cases, that an extravagant number of days' work is returned, which tends to take a corresponding increase of money from the treasury of the county and place it in the pockets of the assessors and their assistants, their pay being two dollars for every day's work done. In one instance this year an assessor made return that he had been engaged in his work fifty-three days, just one more than the law days more than he should have been, and a large number of days more than he had his books out. In quite a number of instances, the books showed that they had been out a considerably less number of days than the assessors had returned. As a consequence, several very lively scenes have occurred in the Controller's office recently, the gentleman declining to permit such an imposition, and refusing to allow the assessors a larger amount of pay than they were entitled to by the law.

John Lance, of Indiana county, arrested with the haul of alleged counterfeiters from that county, was yesterday released on $2,000 bail by Judge Ketchum.

The Grand Jury is expected to adjourn on Monday or Tuesday.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

But two more chances remain to see Mr. Chanfrau in his admirable representation of *Kit Redding* in "Kit, the Arkansas Traveler"—at this afternoon's matinee and this evening, when his engagement closes. To-night, People's night prices will prevail.

On Monday evening, Miss Clarke Thompson, a lady of fine talent, personal beauty and grace, will begin a short season. A five act historical drama entitled "Court and Stage," by Tom Taylor and Charles Reade, will be presented, with Miss Thompson as *Nell Gwynn* and Mr. J. N. Gotthold as the *Duke of Richmond*. The entire company will be in the cast. On Wednesday evening "Miss Multon," another new play, will be produced, and on Friday still another, entitled "Only a Woman."

Library Hall.

"Splinters" will be played at for the last time to-day—matinee and evening.

The Boucicault comedy company will appear in Boucicault's comedy of "Forbidden Fruit," concerning which the Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* said:

"Mr. Boucicault's farcical comedy of 'Forbidden Fruit,' which was given for the first time at the Arch Street Theater last night, is an exceedingly ingenious and exceedingly effective elaboration of the old story of the couple of gentlemen who decided to go and have 'a night of it,' after pretending to their respective spouses that they were going out of town on business, and who, on arriving at the sporting house of festivity are astonished at being confronted with their spouses aforesaid, who have taken advantage of the opportune absence of their lords to also make a 'night of it.' The piece is most skillfully put together, and the various incidents which complicate the situation for the errant Benedicts are managed in a most effective style. There is something more than a suspicion of naughtiness about 'Forbidden Fruit,' but it is decidedly one of the most entertaining plays that has been produced in this city for a long time, and as it was for the most part very well acted last night by a select company, the audience was kept in a state of laughter throughout the whole of the three not very long acts."

Obituary.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Hamnett, one of our most estimable citizens, a resident of Wilkinsburg, formerly the Thirty-seventh ward. The lamentable manner of his decease we mentioned yesterday. He was aged forty-seven years, was prominent for many years in the ride and leather business and was esteemed by a large circle. His family have our condolence in their sorrow.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

Two additional cases of smallpox were reported yesterday at the health office.

IT is announced that Postmaster Anderson will assume the duties of the position this afternoon.

LEWIS THOMAS, vagrant, was retired to Claremont for thirty days by Mayor Phillips yesterday.

TO-NIGHT Bessemer Castle A. O. K. of M. C. will hold a public installation of officers, at Braddock's Fields.

THE oil men are anxiously waiting to see whether the Columbia Oil Company intends to commence refining.

GEORGE GRACY, a colored man living in Upton's row, Sixth ward, Allegheny, broke his arm yesterday by a fall on Sherman avenue.

THE Allegheny Council Committees on Markets and Fire Engines and Hose hold their regular meetings on Monday evening next.

FOUR thousand five hundred oil barrels a day are made in and about Pittsburgh. Of this amount Claremont gets out eight hundred per day.

SPONGING the windows with alcohol will it is said, keep off the frost. Old topers say the effect is similar when the application is made to the stomach.

JOHN DIPPENBACH, the man who was shot in the ball in the East End, on Monday night, is recovering, through he is not yet considered out of danger.

MAYOR MCCARTHY disposed of seven common cases yesterday morning. Robert Dobson was sent to Claremont for thirty days and Sarah Stewart for ninety days.

MRS. RAFFERTY was knocked down on Arch street, Allegheny, yesterday, by a sled on which some boys were coasting. Fortunately she was only slightly injured.

MISS HUNTER, a teacher in the Third ward school, of Allegheny, while walking on Esplanade street yesterday, was struck by a sled, knocked down and severely hurt.

JOHN O'BRIEN had a hearing before the Mayor yesterday on a charge of stealing a roll of flannel from the dry goods store of O. Roth, on Penn avenue, and was held for trial.

TWO hundred loaves of bread will be distributed this morning at ten o'clock from the station house in Temperanceville to the poor of that district, without regard to color or condition.

IN the case of Thomas Berry, who is charged with fraud, before Alderman Milliken, on oath of J. F. Logan, a hearing took place yesterday. The magistrate reserved his decision.

JOHN FERGUSON, indicted for complicity in the Boggs & Buhl robbery, was committed to jail yesterday. His counsel, M. Arrizwieder, Esq., will make application for his release on bail.

REV. DERMITT and two members of the County Prison Society are attending to the spiritual wants of Green, the colored murderer, whose execution is fixed for February 12th. He takes his impending fate calmly.

FRANK BREM was held to bail yesterday for a hearing before Mayor Phillips on a charge of larceny by bailee. It is alleged that he held $50 as stakeholder for a couple of sports, and failed to turn over the money.

GREAT dread is felt on the South Side that the houses on Carson street, where the Two Handle Railroad crosses over, will be flooded and greatly damaged when the thaw sets in, by the water coming down the road from the hill.

MR. JACOB ROSENBERG, an Allegheny undertaker, was crossing the Ohio river, at McKee's Rocks, yesterday with a coffin, when he broke through, and was compelled to let the coffin as a life preserver. He reached the shore, safe and wet.

THE Improvement Trust Company have elected the following officers: Robert Arthurs, President; J. L. Marshal, George I. Whitney, Edward Agnew, Ralph Bagsley, E. T. Cassiday, D. Lest Wilson, W. Stevenson, H. B. Miller, W. A. Klages, directors.

CHARLES SHANO, of East street,